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SWEEET

青山 景 comic by Kei Aoyama

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SWWEEET ❷ CONTENTS

Chapter 8: Odyssey 5
Chapter 9: Life Cycle 29
Chapter 10: Rumble in Tokyo 53
Chapter 11: Voices 77
Chapter 12: Children 101
Chapter 13: Mud 125
Chapter 14: Desires 149
Final Chapter: Snowy Road 173
Bonus Track: Playback 198

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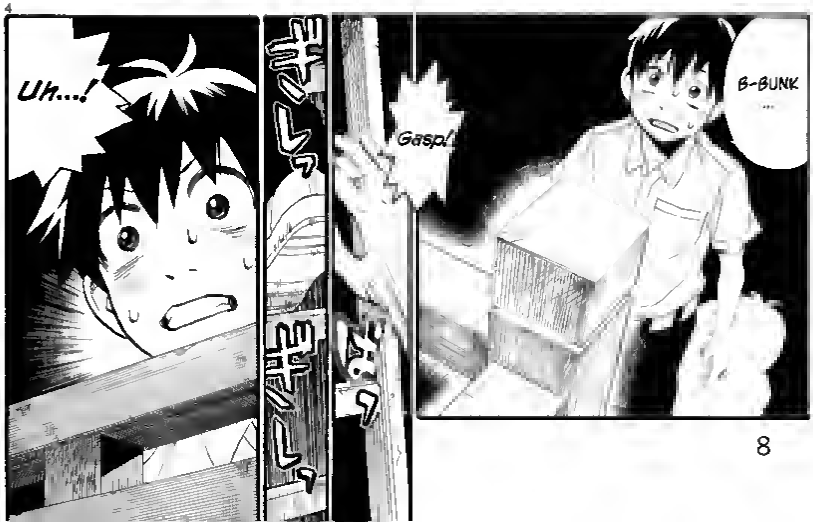
Chapter 8: Odyssey

AND HER BIG BROTHER
HE JUST COLLAPSED
SHIT, WHAT HAPPENED?!
THAT'S NIIJIMA NANA
?!
Hey, SUGUMU...
SAKURA
HUH?!
I'M LYING THERE...
2
...
WHAT'S GOING ON?

NOT YET.
!!
AM I...
DEAD?!
BUT YOU'VE HIT YOUR HEAD TOO MANY TIMES, SUSUMU.
TO THE POINT WHERE YOU JUST SUDDENLY COLLAPSE.
MY HEAD...
DO YOU REMEMBER ?
THE FIRST DAY... THE DAY I APPEARED.

IT WAS LAST SPRING. YOU FELL FROM THE TOP BUNK THAT USED TO BE TSUTOMU'S...
...AND HIT YOUR HEAD.

THEN YOU SAW ME IN THE MIRROR.


B-BUNK...
Gasp!
Uh...!

WHAT WERE YOU DOING AT THAT TIME?
!!
DID YOU THINK YOU WERE NORMAL?
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH.

HOW CAN A PERSON DOING A ONE-MAN SHOW IN FRONT OF A MIRROR BE NORMAL?

A ONE-MAN SHOW...
THAT'S RIGHT. THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS THE "TSUTOMU INSIDE THE MIRROR."

6

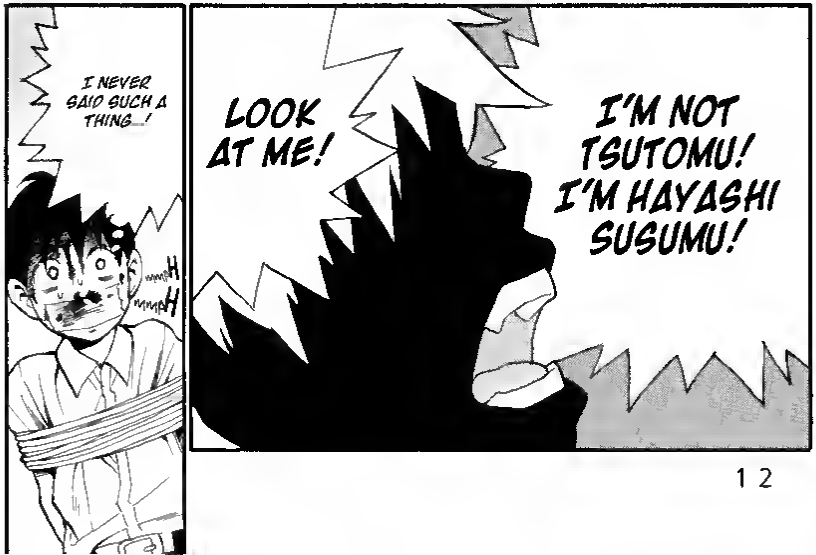
I WAS...
GROW UP!
NO!!

ゆらり
WAKE UP, SUSUMU!
Grasp!

I WANTED TO SEE YOU, TSUTOMU...
Huh ?!

ME FROM THE PAST ...?!
I'M...

8

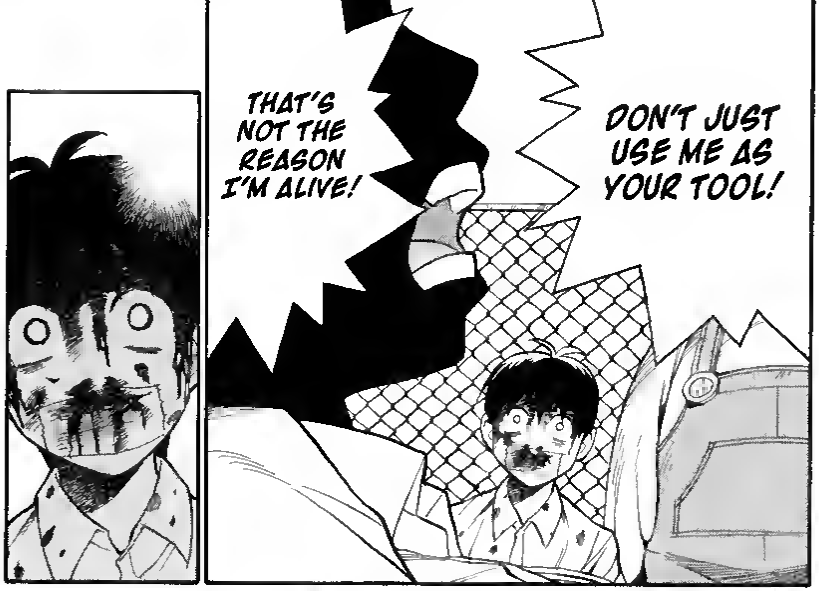

I NEVER SAID SUCH A THING...!
HHH
LOOK AT ME!
I'M NOT TSUTOMU! I'M HAYASHI SUSUMU!

BUT YOU WANTED TO SAY IT, DIDN'T YOU?
YOU THINK YOU SHOULD HAVE SAID IT, DON'T YOU?
SAKURA!
SAKURA...
WHAT IS SHE LOOKING AT...?
9
ドドド
WHA ...?!

Gasp!
I'M GOING FURTHER BACK IN TIME

N...
I'M RAPING YOU OF MY OWN FREE WILL!

NO!
IT'S JUST MORE CONVENIENT FOR YOU IF YOU THINK THAT WAY!


DON'T JUST USE ME AS YOUR TOOL!
THAT'S NOT THE REASON I'M ALIVE!

WHO DO YOU LIVE FOR?
THEN...

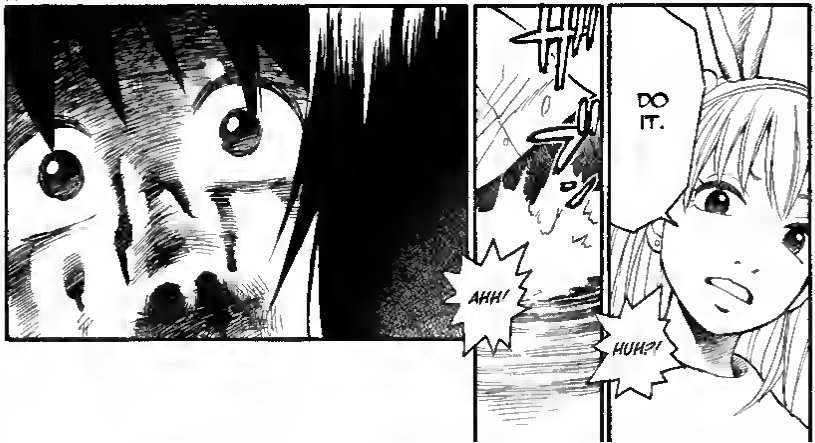
HUH?!

I'VE NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT THAT...
WHO AM I LIVING FOR...?
IS IT FOR SAKURA...?
UNTIL NOW, YOU THOUGHT THAT LOVE WAS A BENEVOLENCE...
...AS CLEAR AS A GOD.
!!
!!
12
BUT THAT WAY, NOTHING GOT BETTER.
!!
TO PRESERVE A SELF-PORTRAIT THAT WAS INNOCENT AND PURE.
THAT'S WHY YOU DIS-PLACED YOUR DESIRES ONTO THE "TSUTOMU INSIDE THE MIRROR."

YOUR WORDLESS LOVE DIDN'T REACH ANYONE.
WAIT ...!
IT'S YOUR TURN.

!!

UWABAMI DONO...?!
IS THIS—


DO IT.
AHH!
HUH?!

HOW DO YOU FEEL?
SO...

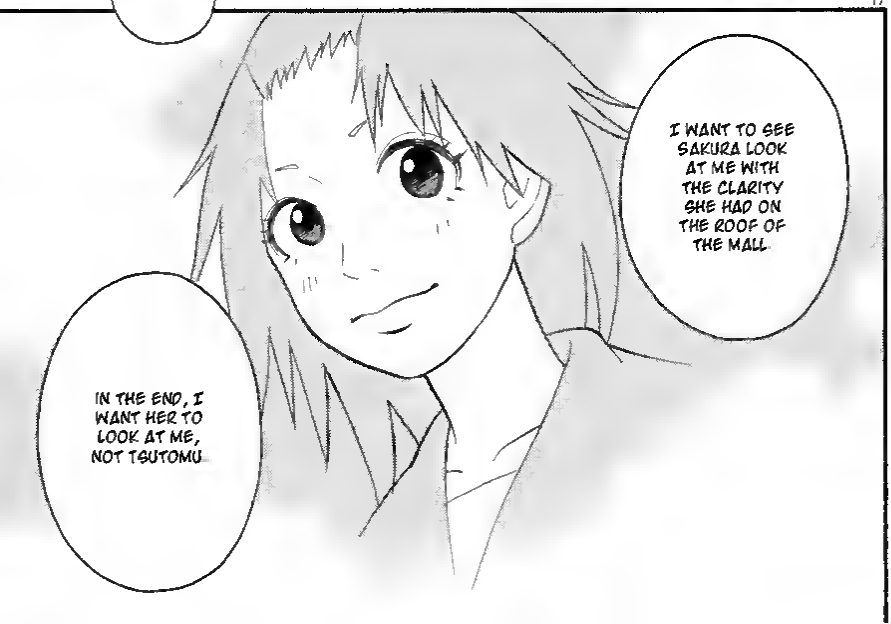
SAKURA.

SAKURA, LOOK AT ME.

BUT THE ME THAT LOVES YOU IS ALMOST AS IMPORTANT TO ME..
YOU'RE IMPORTANT TO ME...

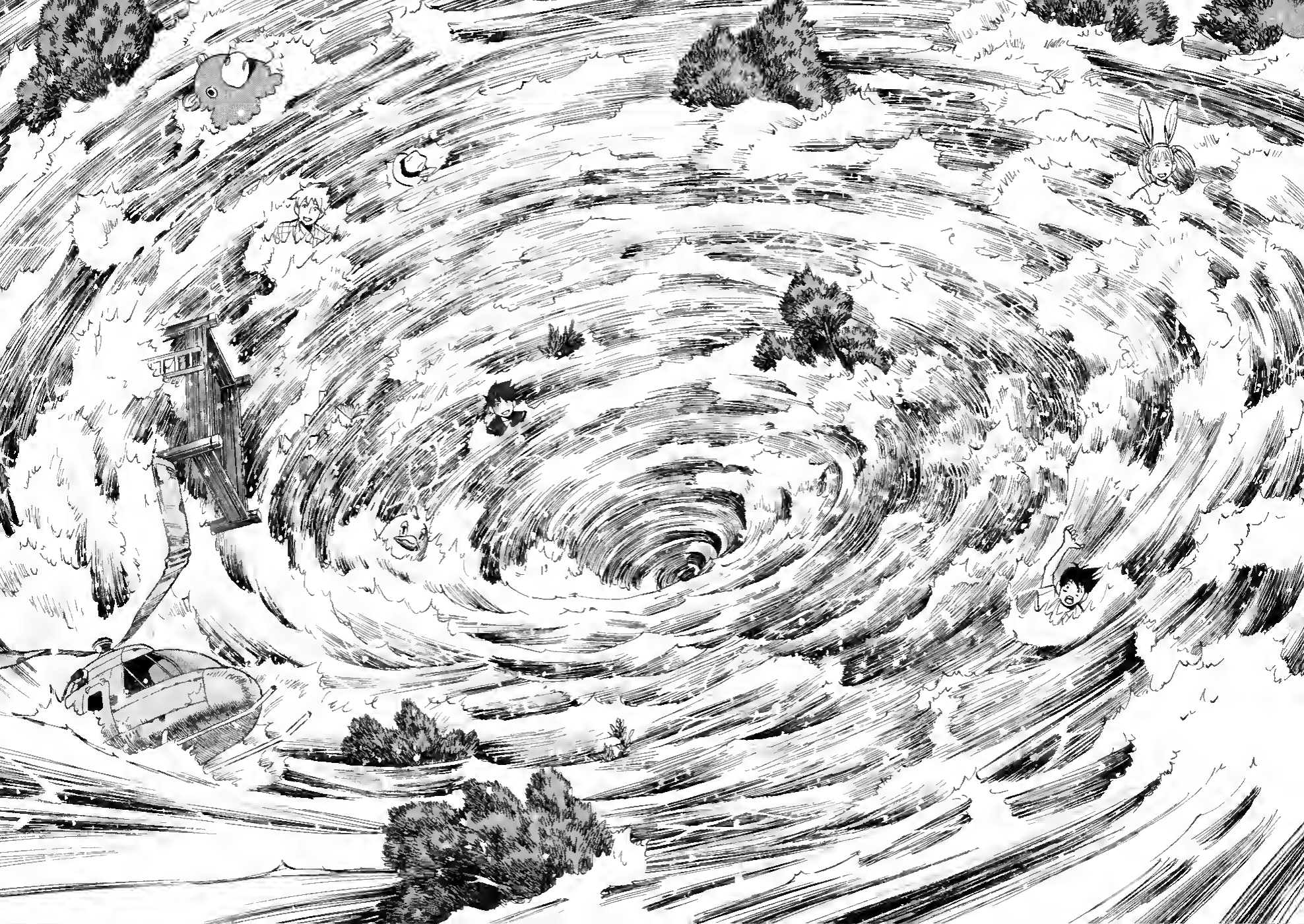
NOT ONLY FOR YOU, BUT FOR MYSELF AS WELL.
THAT'S WHY I NEED TO LIVE...
UH-HUH

IN THE END, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO SOMETHING, OR I MIGHT HURT HER EVEN MORE
OR I MIGHT BE REJECTED BUT, STILL..
I KNOW
BUT YOU CAN DO ONLY SO MUCH THAT WAY.
I HAVE TO ACCEPT THAT IN ORDER TO MOVE FORWARD
I


I WANT TO SEE SAKURA LOOK AT ME WITH THE CLARITY SHE HAD ON THE ROOF OF THE MALL
IN THE END, I WANT HER TO LOOK AT ME, NOT TSUTOMU

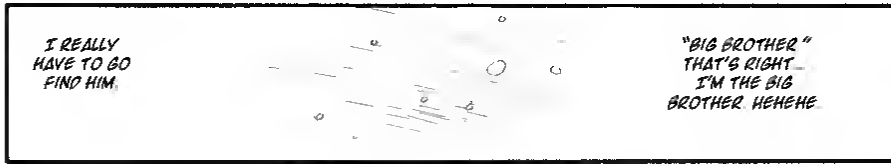
DON'T FORGET THOSE WORDS.
HUH?
18
FOR THAT, THERE'S ONE IMPOR-TANT THING
HAVE FUN!
ゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴ
ゴゴゴゴゴゴ!!

ゴゴゴ

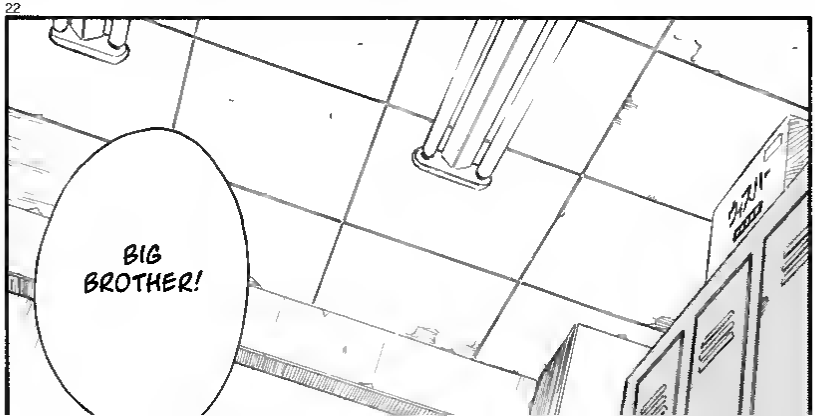


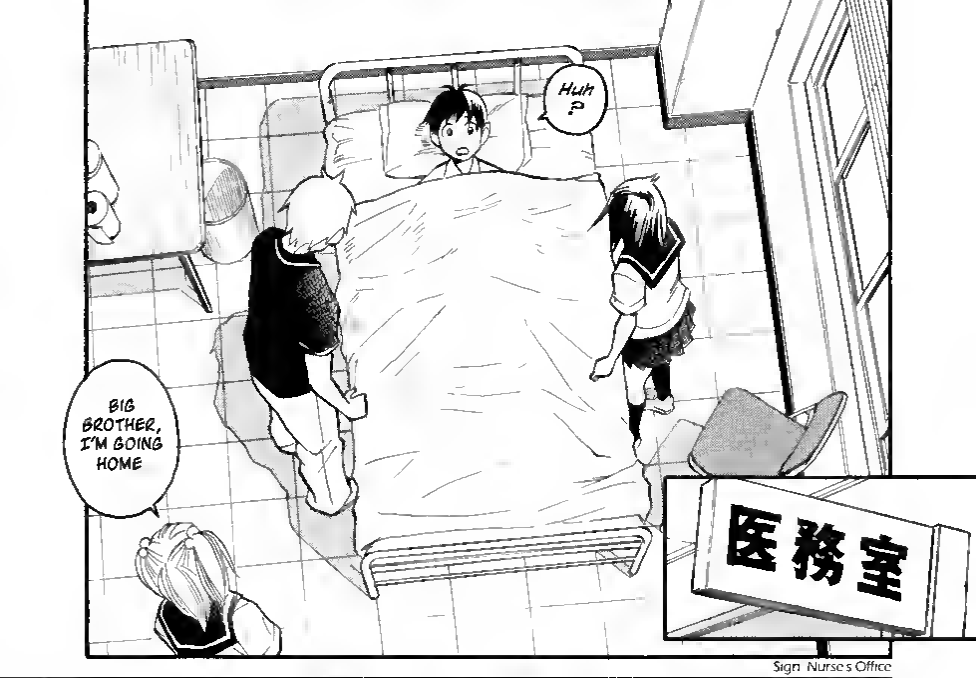
OH, TSUTOMU. WHAT WAS THE REAL TSUTOMU LIKE...?
"HAVE FUN!"... THAT'S WHAT HE REALLY SAID. THE ONE THAT ISN'T TSUTOMU...

HUH ..?
BIG BROTHER

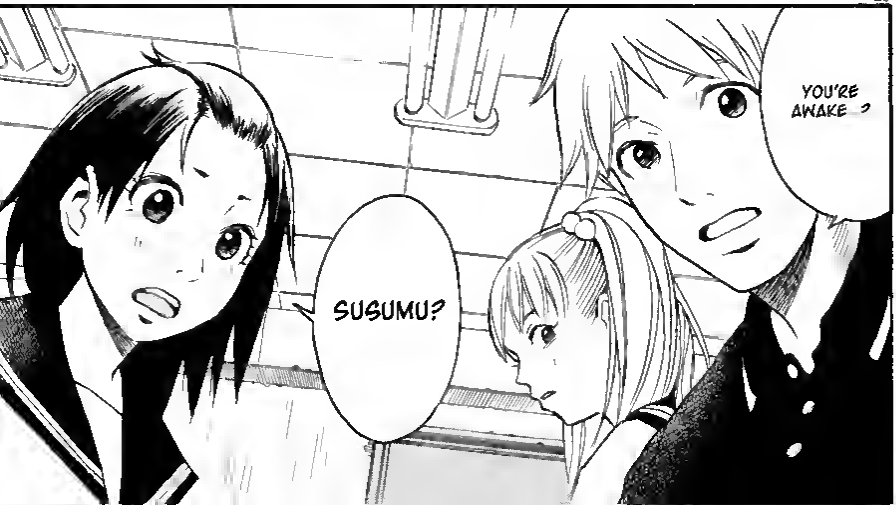

I REALLY HAVE TO GO FIND HIM
"BIG BROTHER" THAT'S RIGHT I'M THE BIG BROTHER. HEHEHE

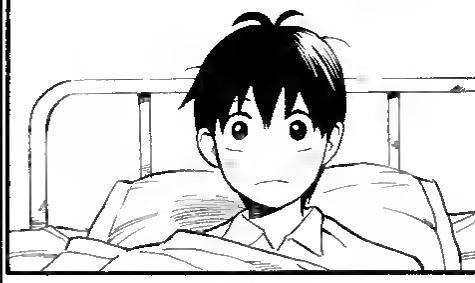
FOR MYSELF...
FOR SAKURA ..
PUT AN END TO THIS
SAKURA AND I HAVE TO FIND TSUTOMU AND

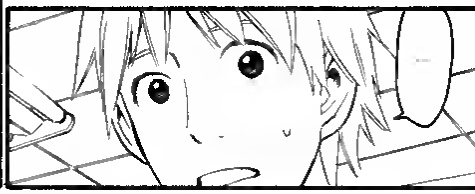

BIG BROTHER!



Sign: Nurse's Office







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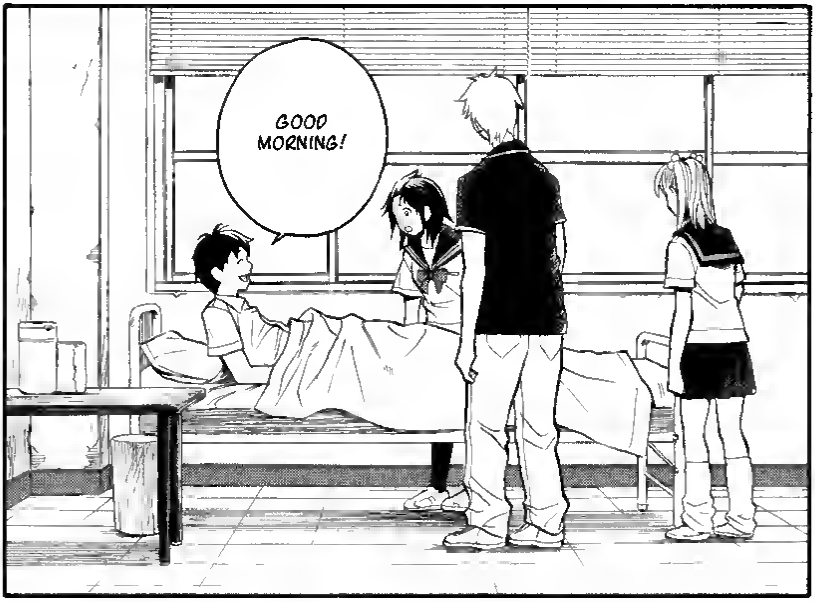
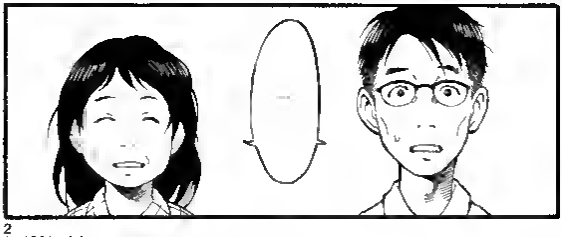


Chapter 9: Life Cycle

IT LOOKS DELICIOUS!



2

もぐもぐ
もぐもぐ

Mm?
WHAT?

SUSUMU, LATELY YOU HAVEN'T EVEN HAD THE ENERGY TO GIVE ANY GREETINGS, SO..

I'M LEAVING NOW!
HAVE A NICE DAY
I'M SORRY
Ha ha ha!
THAT'S RIGHT...
GOOD MORNING
Oh
SAKURA!
I'VE BEEN THINKING .
Ha ha ha ha!
WHAT'S THAT?
GOOD MORNING, LOVER!

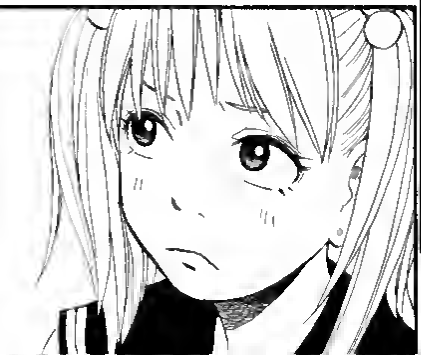
MAYBE NIIJIMA NANA COULD... BUT NO, THAT'S
BUT THE WAY HE WAS ACTING, I DON'T THINK HE'LL TELL US ANY MORE.
I THINK WE NEED... TO GET MORE INFORMATION FROM NANA-CHAN'S BROTHER ABOUT TSUTOMU
I AGREE...
MAYBE NANA-CHAN WOULD BE ABLE TO GET MORE
BUT...
Huh...?

I GUESS I HAVE TO GET CLOSER TO HER.
SAKURA.

..HATE NIIJIMA?
DON'T YOU...

...?!
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO MAKE A REMARK THERE
HUH?

R-REALLY...?
YOU KNOW, LIKE "WHY'S THAT?"

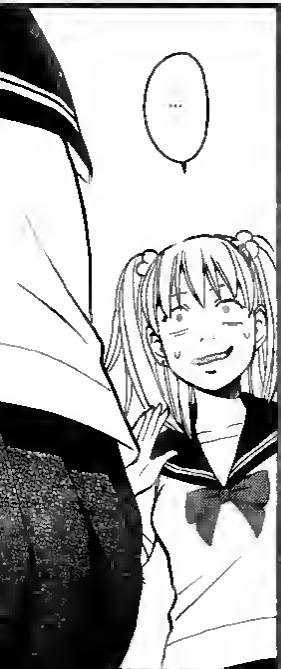


I CAN'T STAND HER.
!!

Erk!
Hey, YOU TWO!
THAT'S WEIRD
?
gaZeeeeeeey
HAVE YOU SEEN THE "GIRLS"?
6
Ahh!
sneaking away
DING DANG DONG
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?
Ah.

REALLY?
I'M SAYING THAT'S BAD.
THEY'RE HERE AFTER ALL.
Like usual

WHY DID YOU ALL GO WITHOUT ME?
Jeez.
Heeeey...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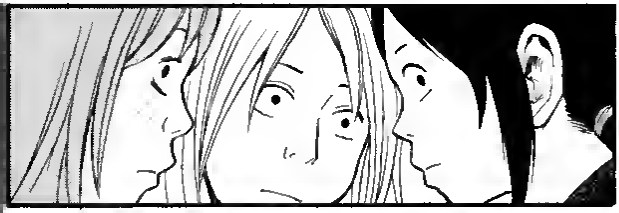
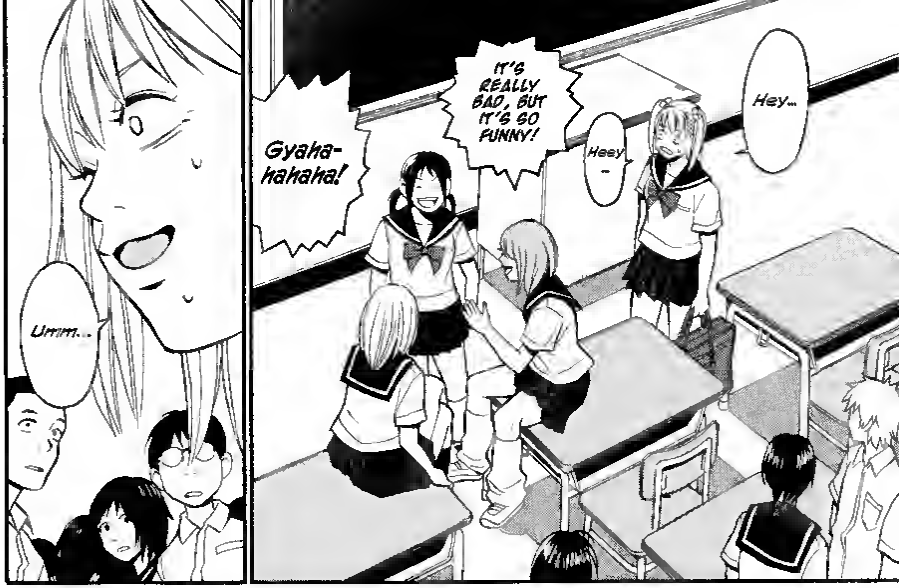
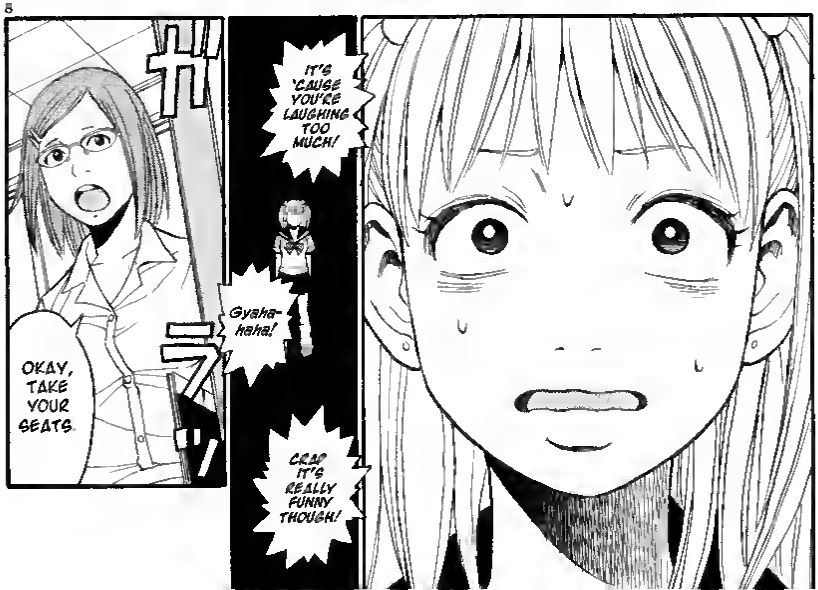
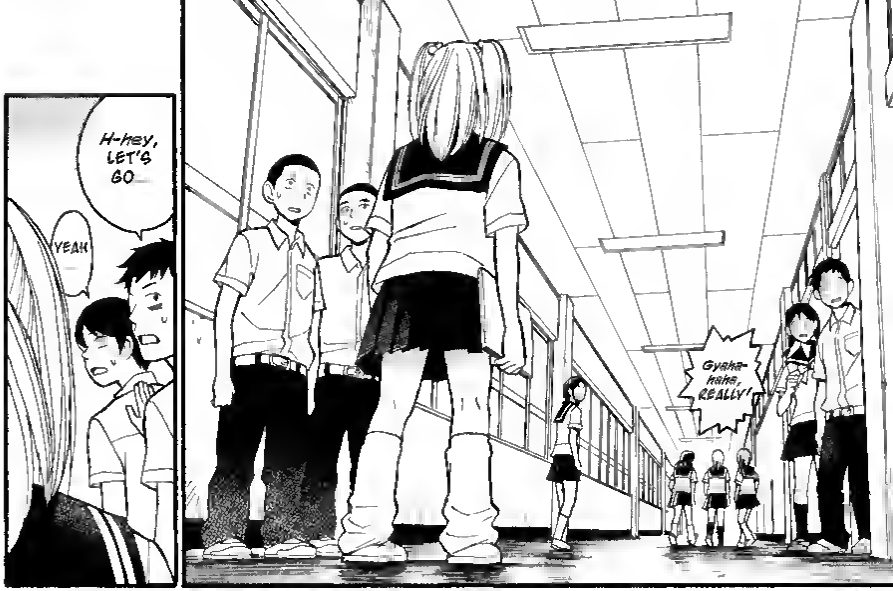


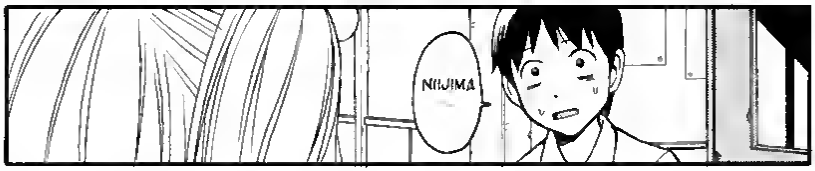
ISN'T THAT BAD THOUGH?
YEAH...
THAT GUY'S REALLY... YOU KNOW...
I WAS ALMOST LATE...

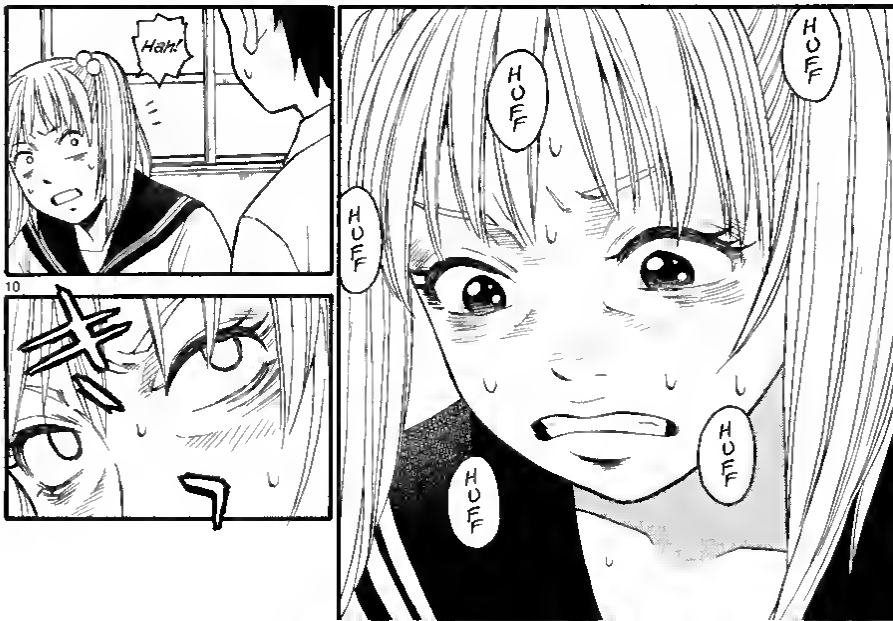

Hey...
Heey
It's really bad, but it's so funny!
Gyaha-hahaha!
Umm...


It's 'cause you're laughing too much!
Gyaha-haha!
Crap it's really funny though!
Okay, take your seats.

HE HE
ALL RIGHT, FIRST PERIOD IS MUSIC
SO DON'T BE LATE
Umm ...
LET'S GO TOGE--
TSK
TSK
TSK
TSK
TSK
TRASH SHOULD HANG OUT WITH TRASH

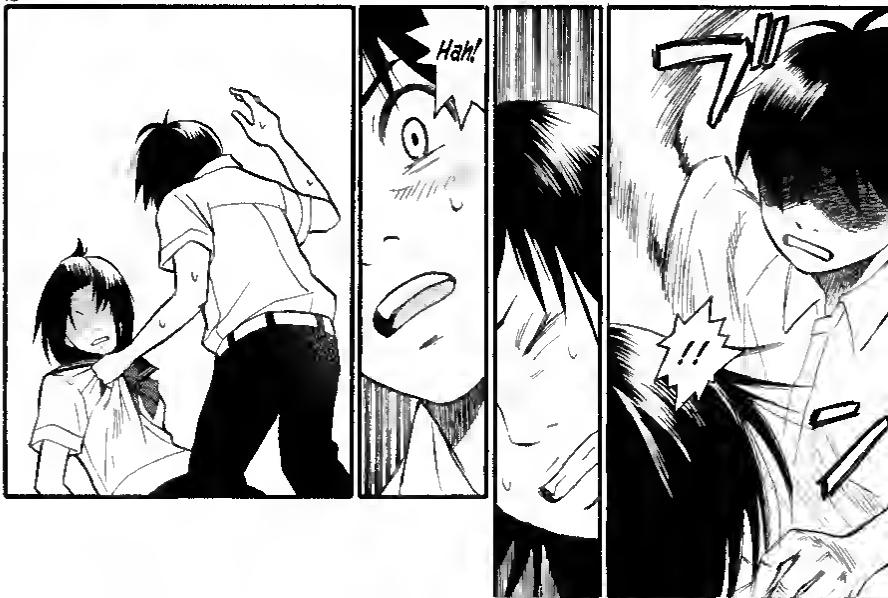

H-hey, LET'S GO
YEAH
Gyaha-haha, REALLY!


NIIJIMA


Hah!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

くるっ
すたすた
H-
Hey, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
SAKU--
Huh ...?
11
かたかたかた
SAKU... RA..?
Har har har har har!

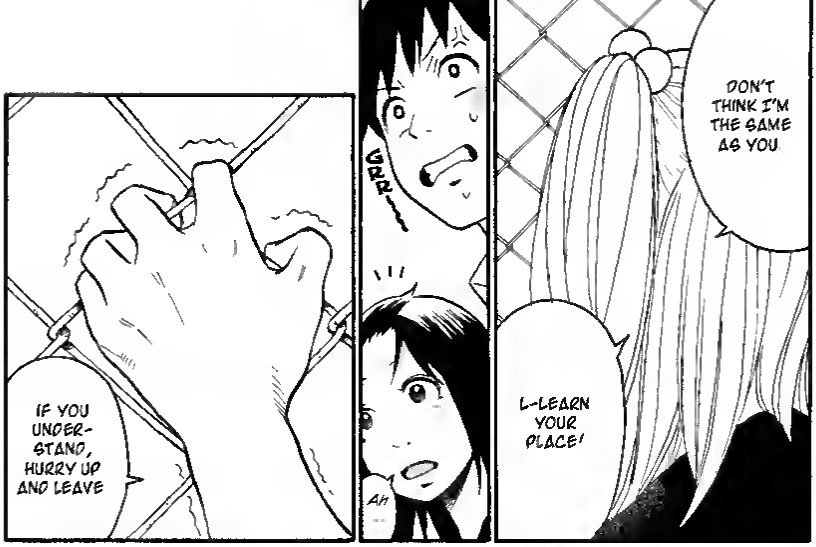
Hah, DID YOU SEE THAT?! SERVES HER RIGHT! Haha!
Ahaha-hahaha!

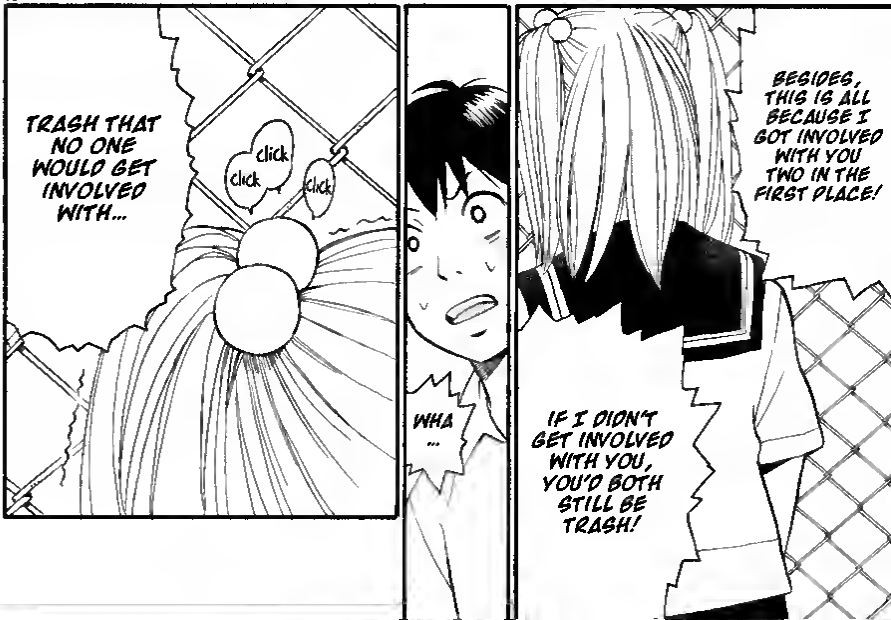

Hah!
!!

WHY DON'T YOU JUST HIT ME?
Hmph!

JUST COME ON!
WAIT, WHAT ?!
COME ON!
Huh ?
14

!!
チャ
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
WH
15
ARE YOU OKAY, NIIJIMA?
Haah?
I DON'T WANT SYMPATHY FROM THE LIKES OF YOU
L-LET'S GO TOGETHER IT'D BE HARD FOR YOU TO RETURN BY YOURSELF


DON'T THINK I'M THE SAME AS YOU
L-LEARN YOUR PLACE!
GRR...
Ah
IF YOU UNDER-STAND, HURRY UP AND LEAVE

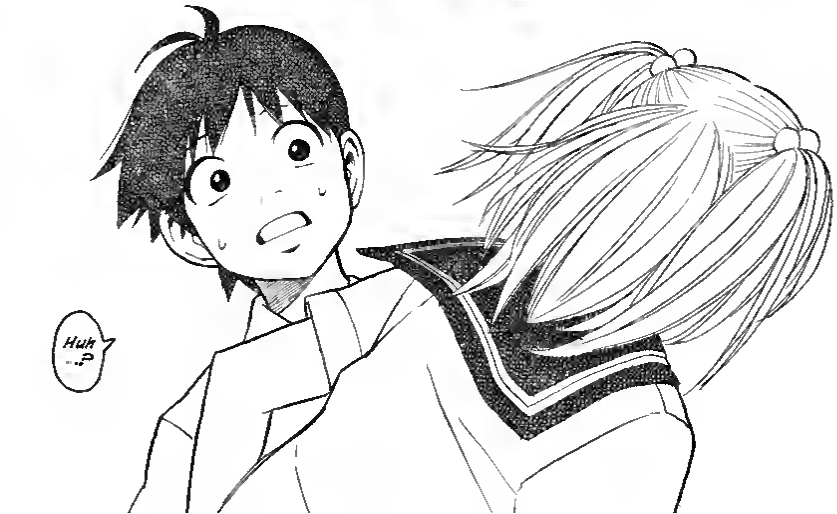

BESIDES, THIS IS ALL BECAUSE I GOT INVOLVED WITH YOU TWO IN THE FIRST PLACE!
IF I DIDN'T GET INVOLVED WITH YOU, YOU'D BOTH STILL BE TRASH!
WHA...
TRASH THAT NO ONE WOULD GET INVOLVED WITH...
click
click
click

Hey!
CLENCH
NANA..
CHAN..
WHAT
17
WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN..
...TO ME?

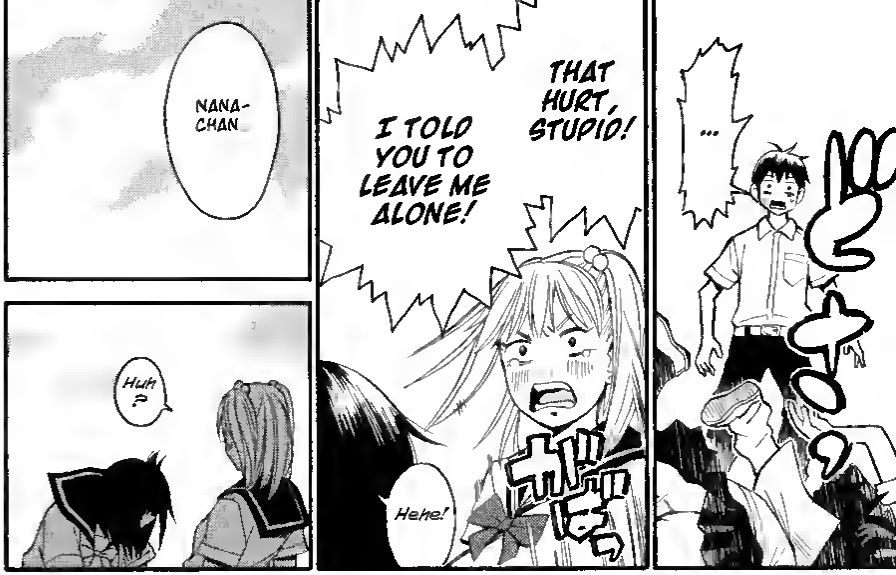
STAY AWAY FROM ME!
NII-JIMA...?
DON'T COME ANY CLOSER!
...?!

STAY WHERE YOU ARE!
BOTH ME AND SAKURA --
WHY WOULD WE DO THAT?
YOU'RE GOING TO GET REVENGE!
YOU BOTH HAVE A GRUDGE AGAINST ME, DON'T YOU?!

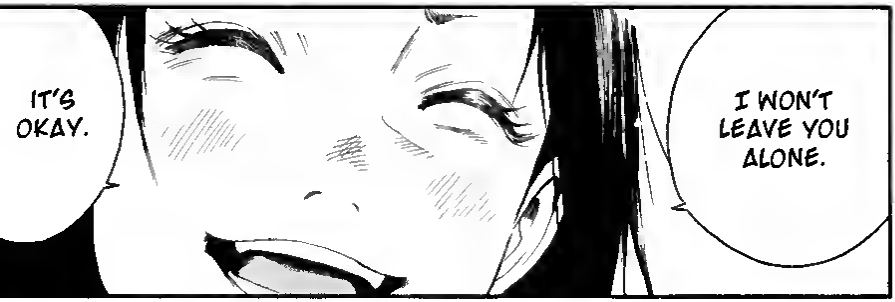
BUT WE WANT TO TALK...
FORGET IT! JUST HURRY UP AND LEAVE!
PLEASE ...
JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!
OW ...
どん

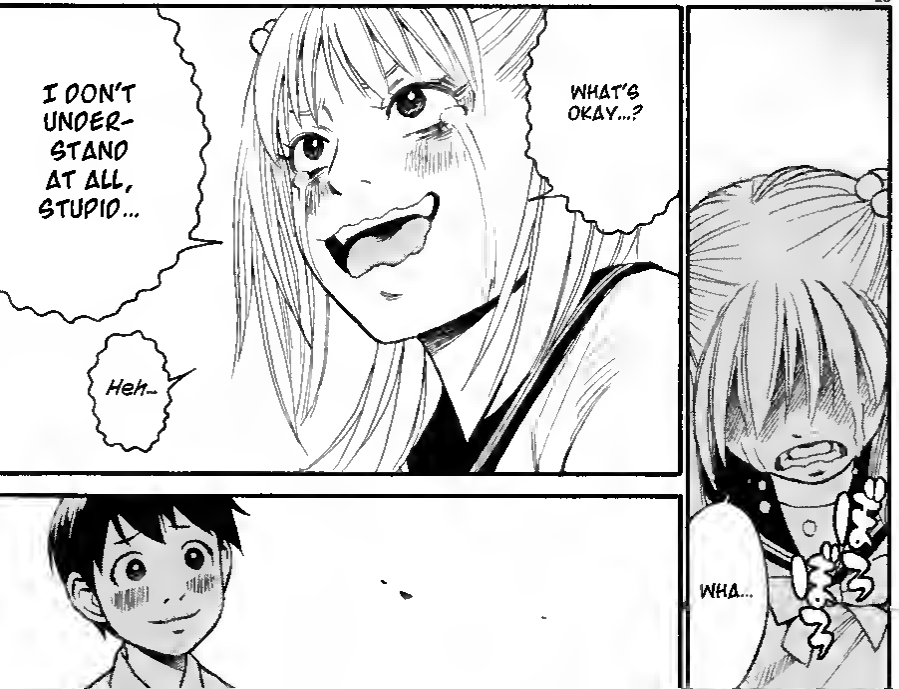

Huh ...?

カバッ
!!
ア
...!!


NANA-CHAN
I TOLD YOU TO LEAVE ME ALONE!
THAT HURT, STUPID!
...
Huh?
Hehe!

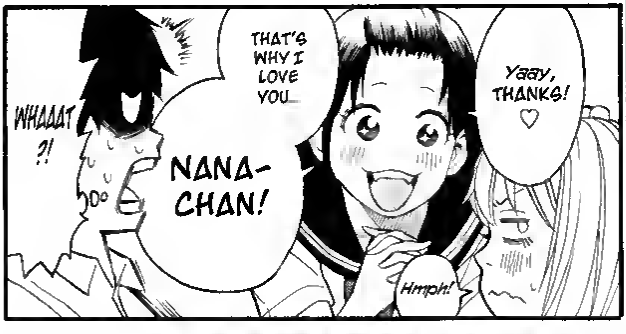
IT'S OKAY!


IT'S OKAY.
I WON'T LEAVE YOU ALONE.

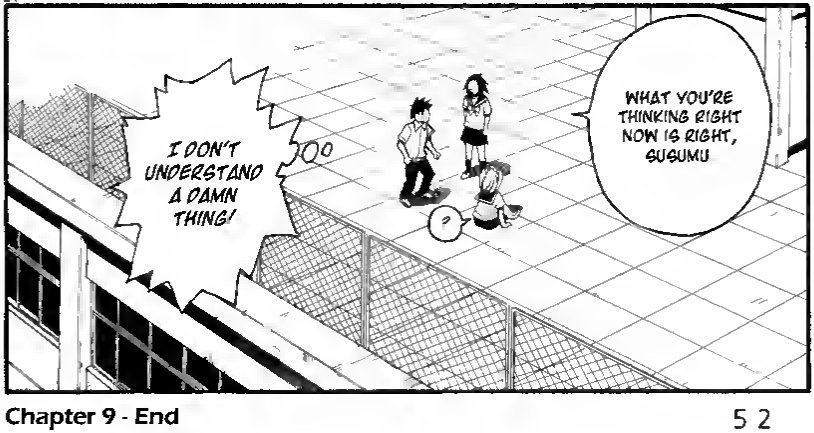

I DON'T UNDER-STAND AT ALL, STUPID...
Heh...
WHAT'S OKAY...?
WHA...

I GUESS I COULD ASK MY BROTHER ABOUT "TSUTOMU."
REALLY?
SHE SOUNDS SO ARROGANT...

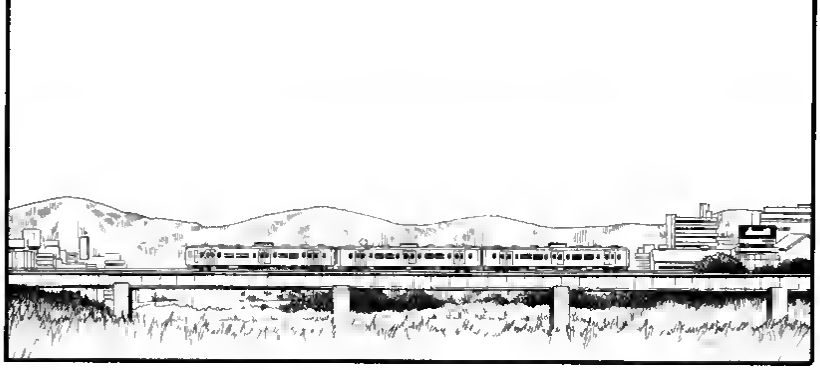
I...

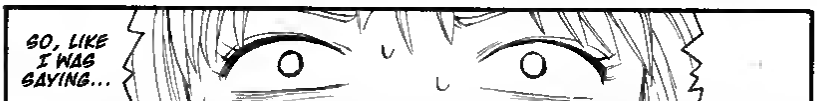

Yaay, THANKS!
THAT'S WHY I LOVE YOU...
NANA-CHAN!
WHAAAT?!
Hmph!

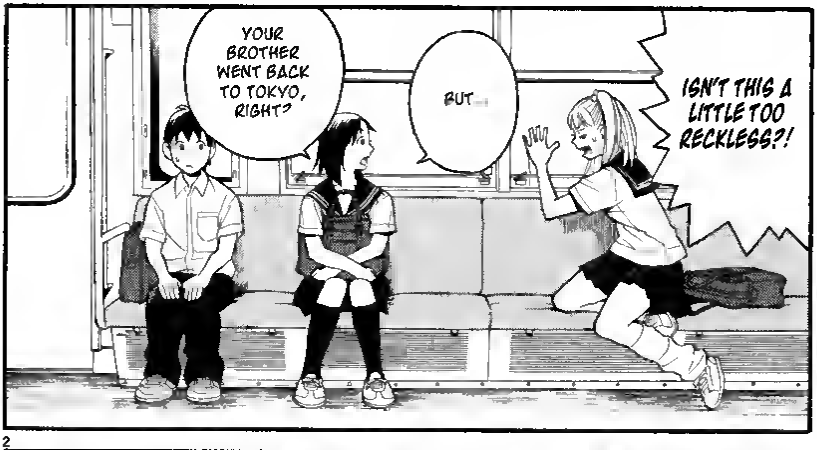
...
EVIL GRIN

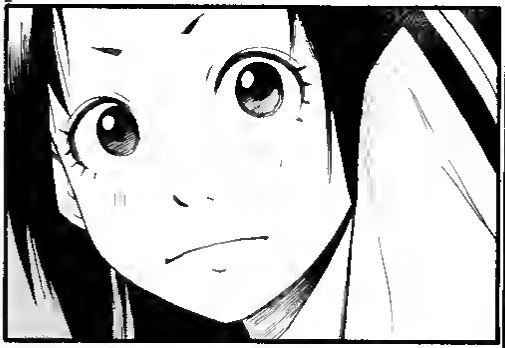

I DON'T UNDERSTAND A DAMN THING!
WHAT YOU'RE THINKING RIGHT NOW IS RIGHT, SUSUMU.

Chapter 10: Rumble in Tokyo




SO, LIKE I WAS SAYING...


YOUR BROTHER WENT BACK TO TOKYO, RIGHT?
BUT...
ISN'T THIS A LITTLE TOO RECKLESS?!



AH

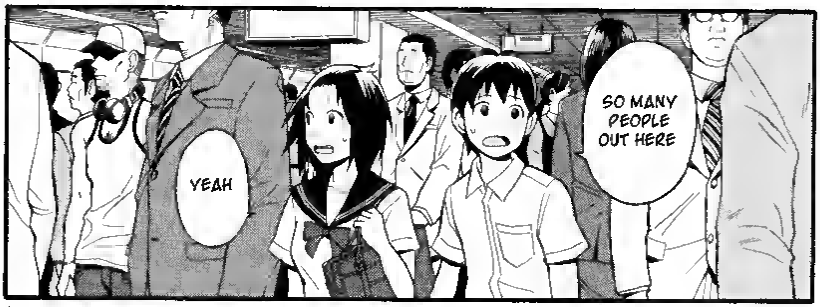
ゴトンゴトン
WELL, THAT'S TRUE, BUT...
IF WE WANTED TO HEAR WHAT HE HAD TO SAY, WE COULD HAVE JUST CALLED

N-NEVER MIND.
I'M WASTING MY BREATH.
W-WELL, YOU TWO GOING TO TOKYO ALONE WOULD BE DANGEROUS
SO...
WE TOLD YOU YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO COME ALONG TODAY
WELL...
SO... YOU GUYS NEEDED A LEADER
A LEADER?

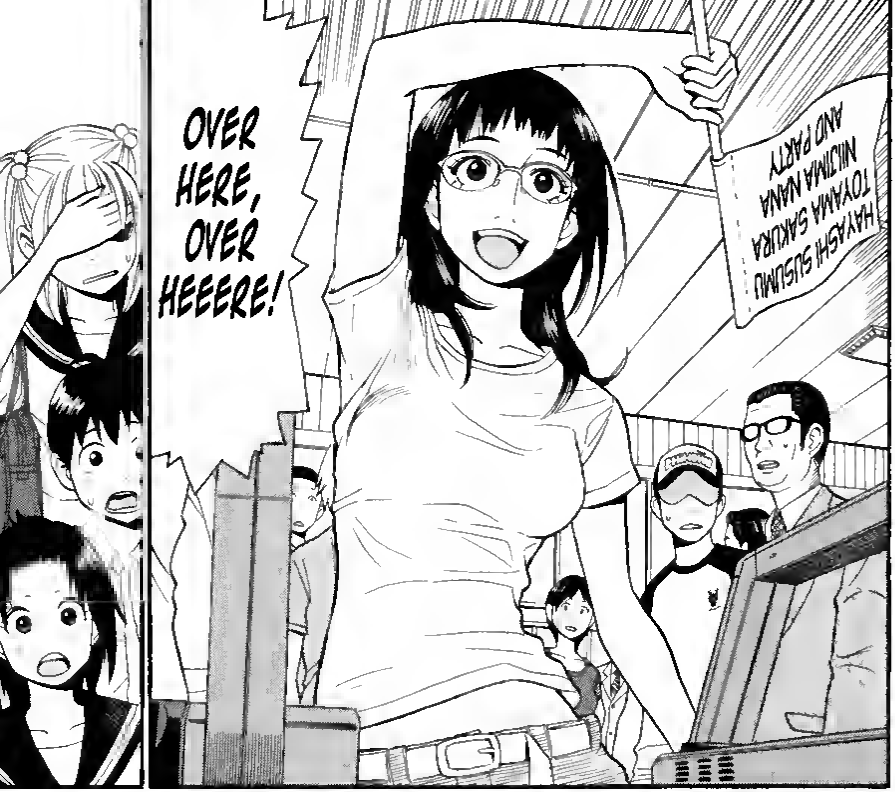
SO, ANYWAY...
Uh-huh, uh-huh.
THOSE TWO KIDS, SUSUMU-KUN AND SAKURA-CHAN, ARE ON THE WAY HERE WITH NANA.

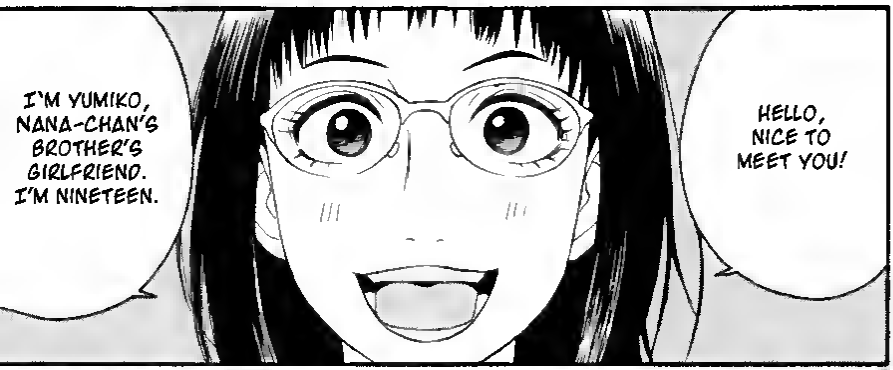
AND SINCE I HAVE TO GO TO WORK RIGHT NOW...
...COULD YOU GO PICK THEM UP FOR ME?

SURE THING
OH RIGHT ON THAT NOTE ABOUT THE ISSUE WITH TSUTOMU-KUN
DON'T WORRY, I GET IT MY LIPS ARE SEALED
SORRY I'LL LEAVE IT IN YOUR HANDS THEN I'LL TEXT NANA THE DETAILS.
'KAY

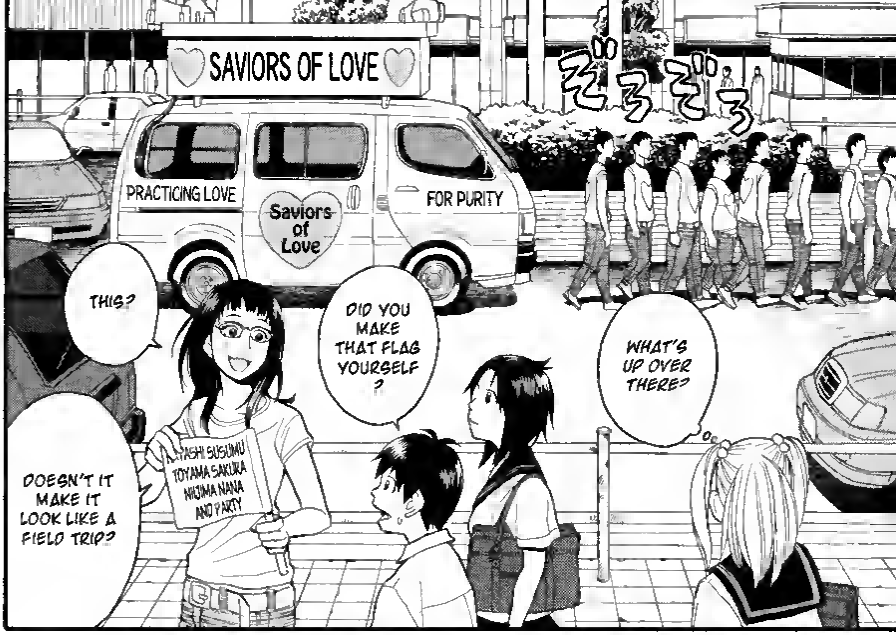

SO MANY PEOPLE OUT HERE
YEAH

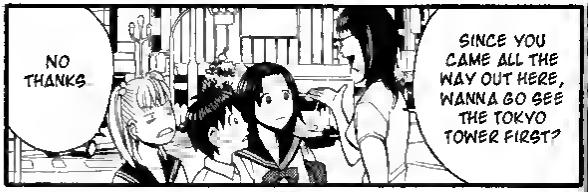
Ugh!
I'M GOING BACK
Huh?!
WH-WHAT'S THIS ALL OF A SUDDEN?
NANA-CHAAAAN!
!!


OVER HERE, OVER HEEERE!
HAYASHI SUSUMU
TOYAMA SAKURA
NIJIMA NANA
AND PARTY

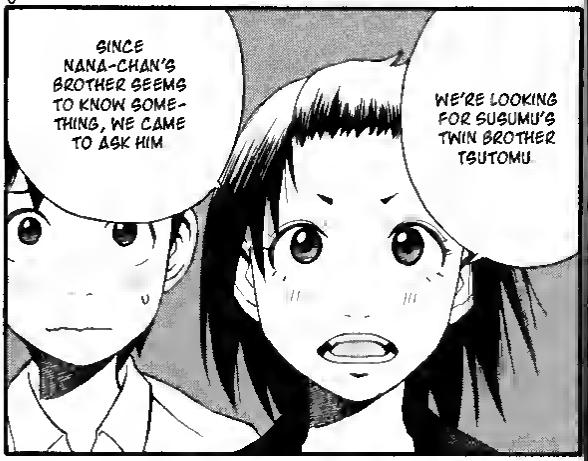

I'M YUMIKO, NANA-CHAN'S BROTHER'S GIRLFRIEND. I'M NINETEEN.
HELLO, NICE TO MEET YOU!

I'M A COLLEGE FRESH-MAN.
HI...
SHE REALLY PISSES ME OFF.
My arch-nemesis!

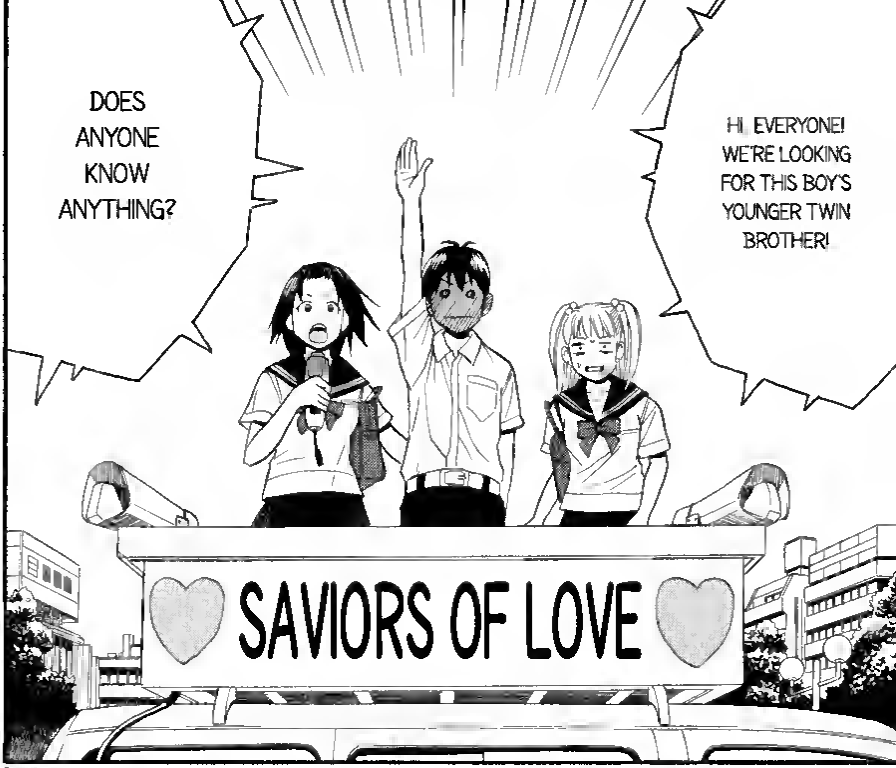

SAVIORS OF LOVE
PRACTICING LOVE
Saviors of Love
FOR PURITY
ごごごご
DOESN'T IT MAKE IT LOOK LIKE A FIELD TRIP?
THIS?
YASHI SUSUMU
TOYAMA SAKURA
NIIJIMA NANA
AND PARTY
DID YOU MAKE THAT FLAG YOURSELF?
WHAT'S UP OVER THERE?

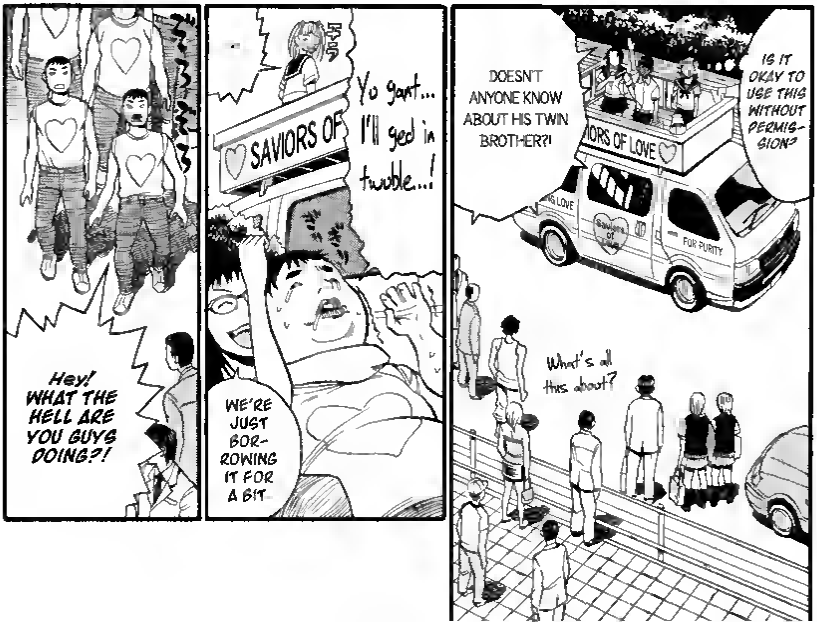

NO THANKS
SINCE YOU CAME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE, WANNA GO SEE THE TOKYO TOWER FIRST?

SINCE MY DREAM IS TO BECOME A SCHOOL TEACHER
DOING SOMETHING LIKE THIS MAKES ME HAPPY


SINCE NANA-CHAN'S BROTHER SEEMS TO KNOW SOMETHING, WE CAME TO ASK HIM
WE'RE LOOKING FOR SUSUMU'S TWIN BROTHER TSUTOMU

OH NO, IT'S MY FAULT...
I DIDN'T KNOW...
S-SORRY ABOUT THAT...
LIKE I SAID, WE DIDN'T COME HERE TO PLAY
Yeah! Yeah!
I SEE... THAT SOUNDS PRETTY SERIOUS...
W-WOW...
ALL RIGHT, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE
BUT...
WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO?
THAT'S IT!
...IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP?
NOW THAT YOU GUYS ARE HERE...
H-HELP...? HOW...?
MAYBE THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE HERE IN TOKYO...
...WHO KNOWS ABOUT TSUTOMU'S WHERE-ABOUTS!
入場券売場


DOES ANYONE KNOW ANYTHING?
HI, EVERYONE! WE'RE LOOKING FOR THIS BOY'S YOUNGER TWIN BROTHER!
SAVIORS OF LOVE

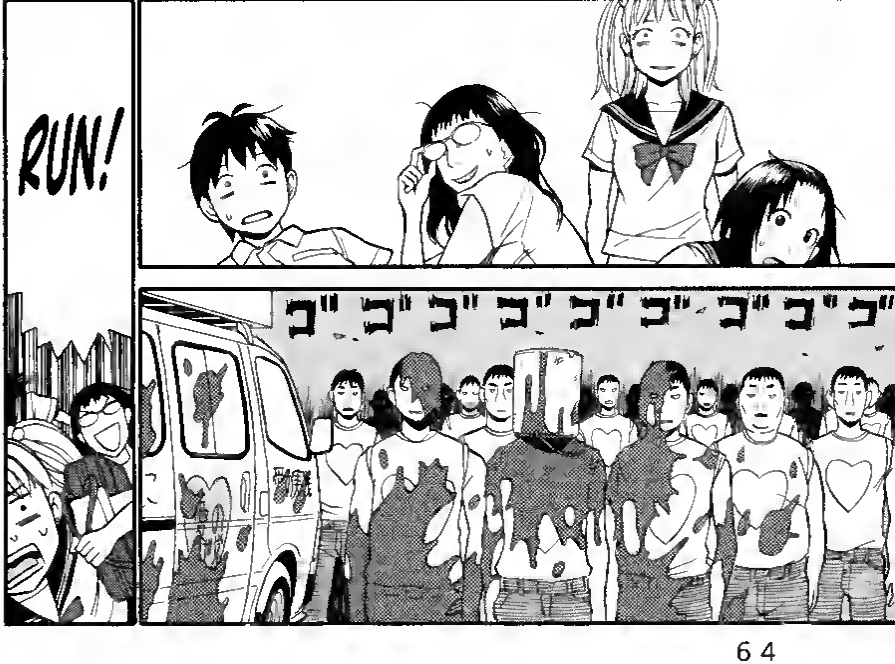

Hey! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU GUYS DOING?!
WE'RE JUST BOR-ROWING IT FOR A BIT
Yo gant... I'll ged in trubble...!
DOESN'T ANYONE KNOW ABOUT HIS TWIN BROTHER?!
IS IT OKAY TO USE THIS WITHOUT PERMIS-SION?
What's all this about?

Hey, STOP!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE, PEOPLE!
OH SHIT!
Aieee!
Ahhh!
!!
!!
MARCIE

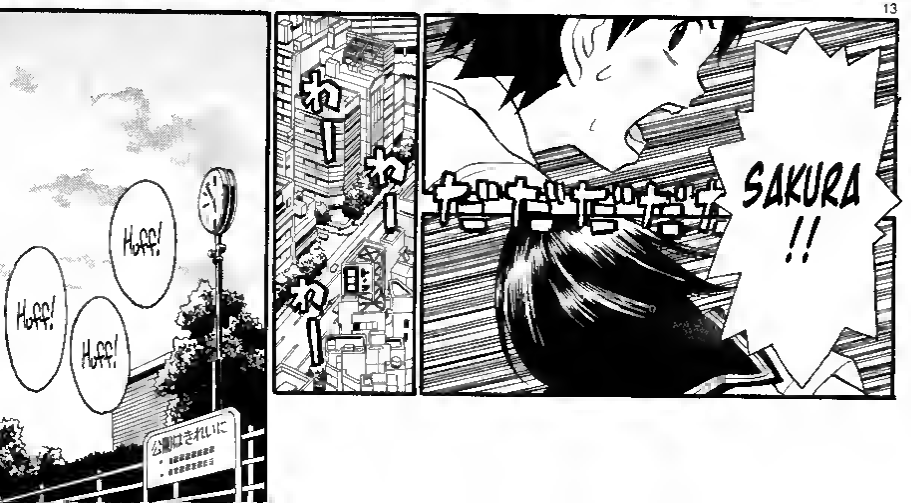
ゆ
カバッ
OOF!

Ahhhhhhh!
TOT
Rrrrgh!
だだだだだだだだ
ドン
GAHHHH!
ドドド

12

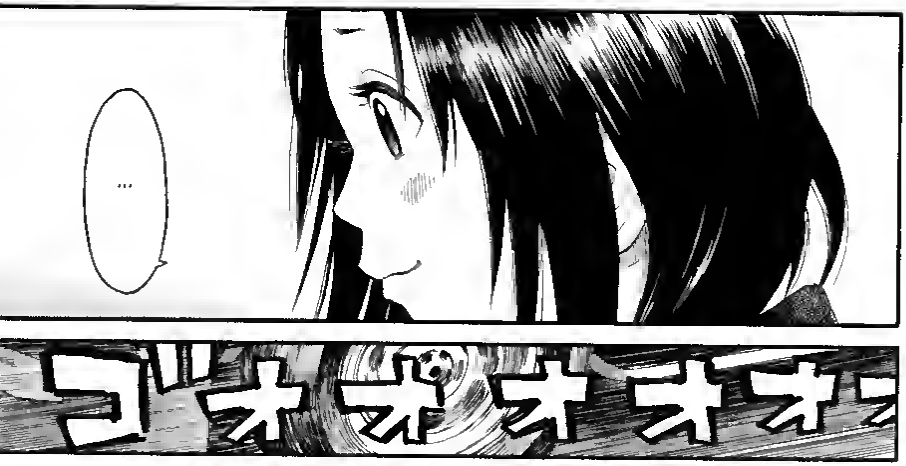


COME ON!
?!
SAKURA ....!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING, SUSUMU-KUN?!
!!
THIS WAY, SUSUMU-KUN!
ゴレ
ゴ...!
....!


SAKURA !!
わー
わー
わー
Huff!
Huff!
Huff!

I'VE GOTTA PEE!
WHAT'S WORSE ...
THAT WAS AWFUL!
HUFF HUFF
DRRRG
Oh!
HELLO, NANA-CHAN?
!!
Yeah, we're fine!
Ahh, hello, hello!
14
HEY, SUSU...
He he he he ...
PFFT-
Where are you guys right now anyway?
Shut up! Mind your own business!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO YELL SO LOUD ...
PSSSHH
Oh gee, I'm so glad you guys are okay too!

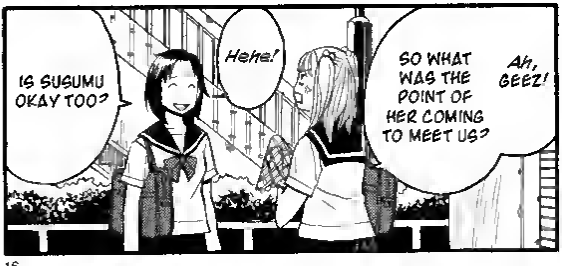
Ahh...
WASHING


...

ゴォォォォォ

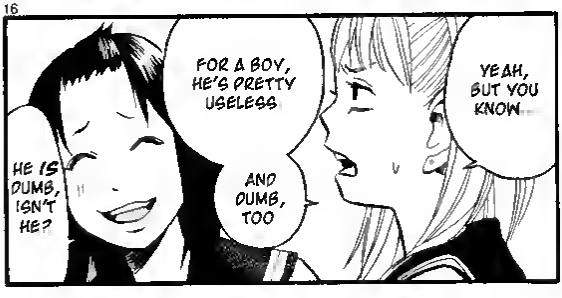
WEEELL..
WHERE WE ARE IS KINDA HARD TO SAY..
ガタ
ガタ
ガタ
共

YEAH, SO YOU GUYS HEAD HOME FIRST, OKAY?
Sorry!
THE HIGH-WAY ?!


IS SUSUMU OKAY TOO?
Hehe!
SO WHAT WAS THE POINT OF HER COMING TO MEET US?
Ah, GEEZ!

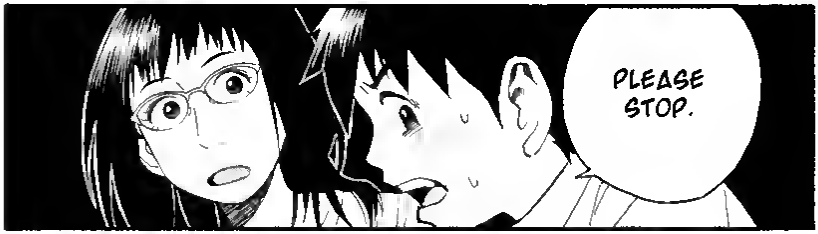
SHE'S MAD AT ME.
click
SEEMS LIKE WE'VE GONE QUITE A DISTANCE AWAY.

16


HE IS DUMB, ISN'T HE?
FOR A BOY, HE'S PRETTY USELESS
AND DUMB, TOO
YEAH, BUT YOU KNOW...

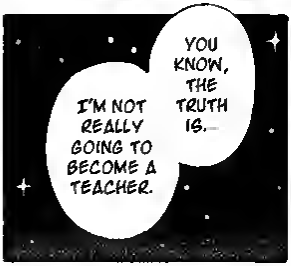
FORGET THAT, WHERE THE HELL ARE THEY RIGHT NOW?!
SAKURA-CHAN AND NANA-CHAN SAY THEY JUST GOT HOME.
YOU THINK?
BUT, YOU KNOW HE STILL DOES HIS BEST, FOR AN IDIOT
REALLY? THAT'S GREAT.
Hew...
OOH! SOMEONE'S THINKING OF HIS GIRL-FRIEND!
17
I KNEW IT! KIDS OF TODAY ARE SO QUICK TO GET IT ON!
HOW LONG HAVE YOU TWO BEEN DATING? HAVE YOU ALREADY DONE IT?
NO, WELL UH...
YOU TWO HAVE SUCH A NICE RELATIONSHIP, DON'T YOU?
YOU HELP EACH OTHER OUT
N-NO, IT'S NOT THAT NICE.
HUH?

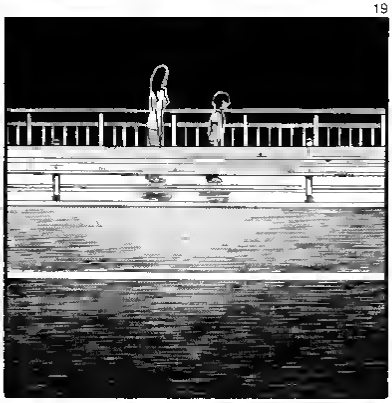
I KNOW. YOU GUYS MUST BE SOOOO HAPPY RIGHT NOW.
PLEASE...
JUST LOOKING AT YOU I COULD TELL YOU'RE MADLY IN LOVE WITH EACH OTHER!
LIAR! I BET YOU GUYS ARE ALL LOVEY-DOVEY!
I WAS SO MOVED WHEN I SAW YOU JUMP OFF THE TOP OF THAT VAN.
NO...


PLEASE STOP.

Huh...
BUT...
YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT US.
WE'RE NOT THAT HAPPY, OKAY?

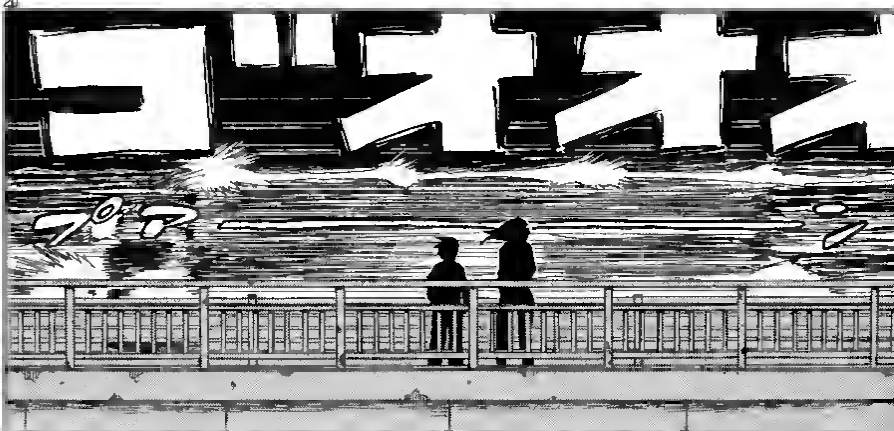
SO...
ISN'T THAT WHY SHE'S WORKING SO HARD TO HELP YOU FIND YOUR LITTLE BROTHER?
SAKURA-CHAN LOVES YOU, SUSUMU-KUN...

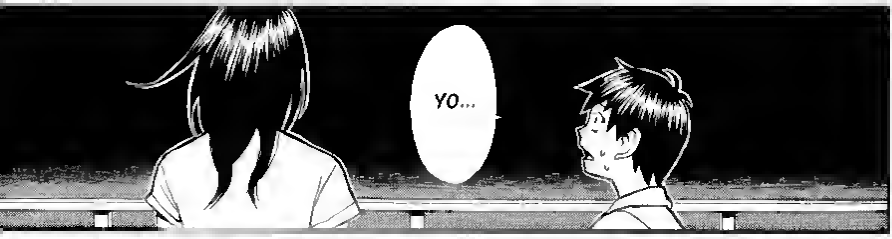

I'M NOT REALLY GOING TO BECOME A TEACHER.
YOU KNOW, THE TRUTH IS...



Huh?
WHY NOT?

I'M SICK AND WILL DIE SOON.




YO...

REALLY?
YOU DON'T LOOK SICK AT ALL...
YOU ...
YOU'RE...
YOU'RE JOKING!

THAT INCLUDES YOUR TIME WITH SAKURA-CHAN, SUSUMU-KUN.
SO...

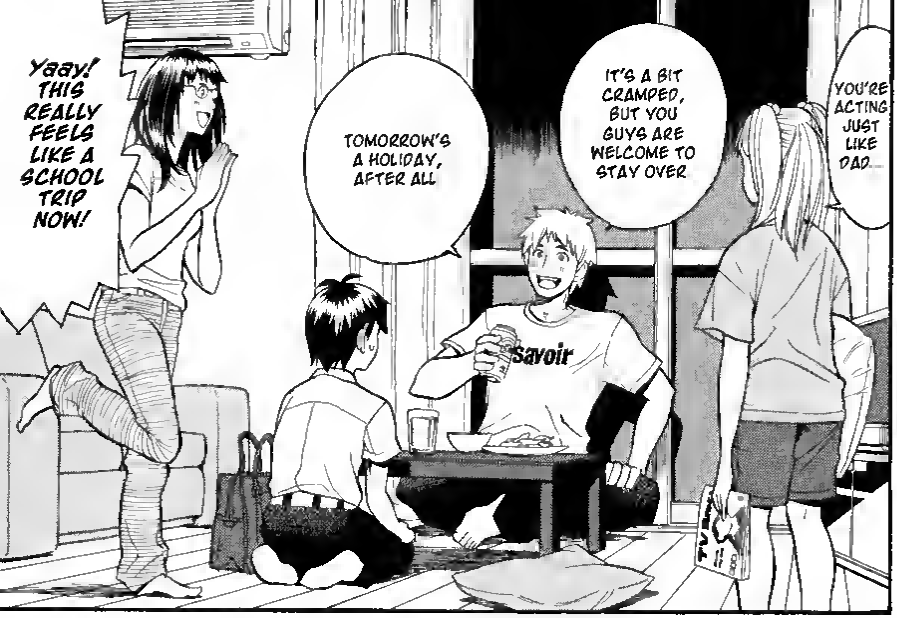
Huh ?
Huh ?!

EVERY-THING MUST EVENTUALLY COME TO AN END.
WELL, NOT JUST MY LIFE, BUT...

DON'T WASTE IT, OKAY? ♡
ぎゅっ
THAT'S ALL I HAVE TO SAY.
LET'S HEAD HOME.

22

Wa ha ha ha ha ha ha!
SOUNDS LIKE YOU'VE HAD QUITE THE DAY!
Haha, I GUESS...
THAT SOUNDED LIKE A LECTURE I SUCK!
Ahaha!
THINK HARD BEFORE HAVING SEX, ALL RIGHT?
BUT STILL, EVEN IF YOU'RE IN LOVE...

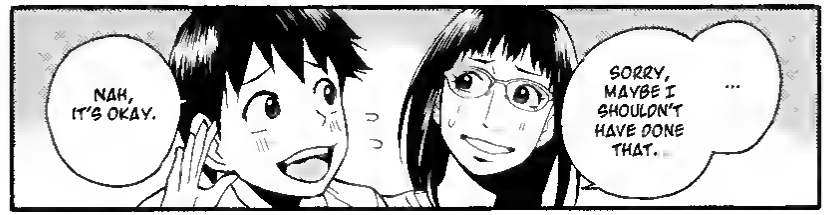

Yaay! THIS REALLY FEELS LIKE A SCHOOL TRIP NOW!
TOMORROW'S A HOLIDAY, AFTER ALL
IT'S A BIT CRAMPED, BUT YOU GUYS ARE WELCOME TO STAY OVER
YOU'RE ACTING JUST LIKE DAD...
Savoir

HA HA HA
I DO ENVY YOU YOUNG KIDS!
Haha, THAT'S A GREAT IDEA!

AREN'T YOU GONNA JOIN HER?
SAKURA-CHAN'S IN THE BATH-ROOM RIGHT NOW.
WHAT ?!

ガラッ
Oh...
SUSU...

NO...
Hahaha !
WHAT ARE YOU GETTING ALL SERIOUS FOR?!



Chapter 10 - End

Chapter 11: Voices

1

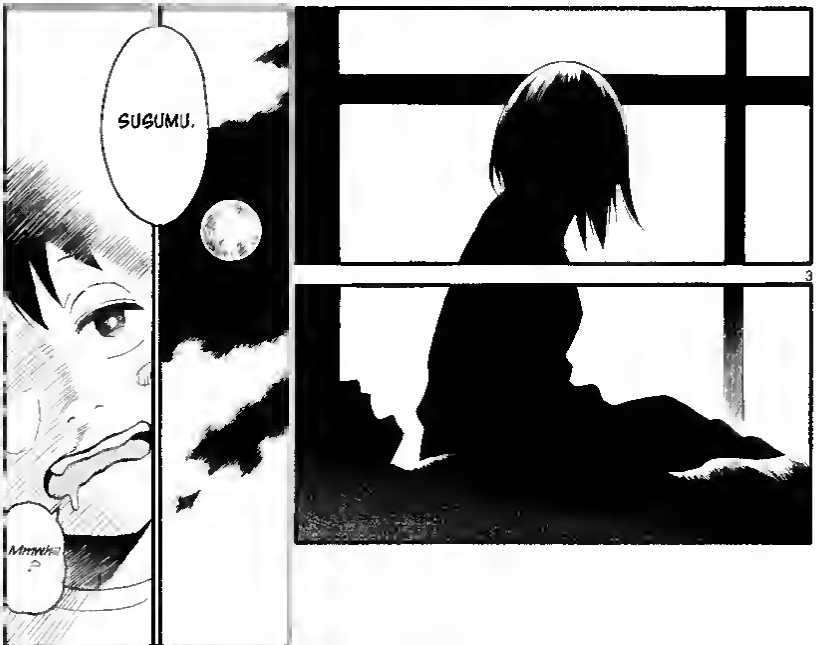
ﾕﾐｺ…
ﾕﾐｺ…
YUMIKO
ﾄｰﾁｬﾝ
BROTH-
ER
ﾋﾞﾋﾞﾋﾞ

ﾋﾞﾋﾞﾋﾞ

EARLIER
HAHAHAHAHA!

WHAT WAS WRONG WITH ME? SUSUMU...
SUSUMU'S NOT TSUTOMU, SO I SHOULDN'T CARE
SA-KURA
WAIT FOR ME
BLUSH
SUSUMU
WRONG... THIS IS WRONG...

I HAVE TO MAKE SURE.
THE REAL ME IS COOL... CALM... COLLECTED.

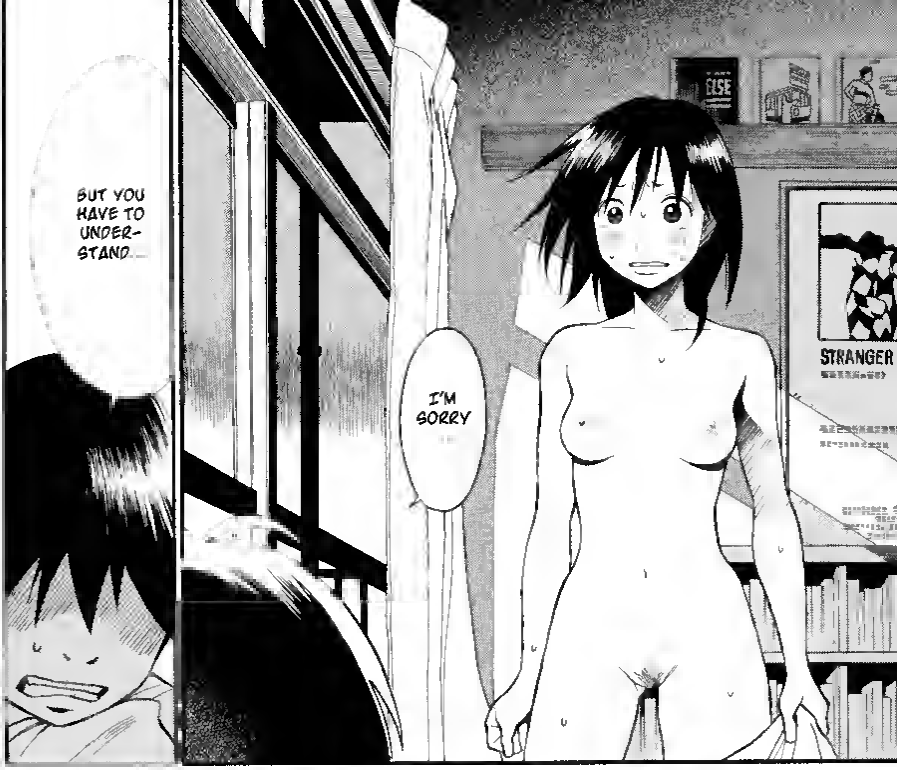

SUSUMU.
Mmmh

LET'S DO IT RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW

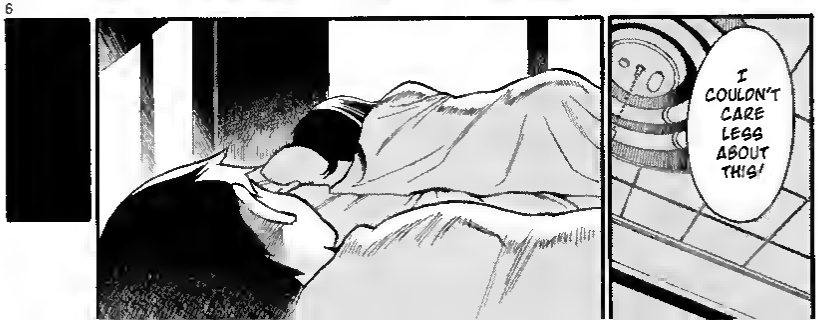
SAKU RA?

SA...
SA-KURA!
COME ON
ヘトヘト

BASP
BASP
BASP
AH...
WHY
WHY ARE YOU RESIST-ING?
I'M SICK
LET'S STOP THIS
HUH?
...OF DOING IT WITH YOU!

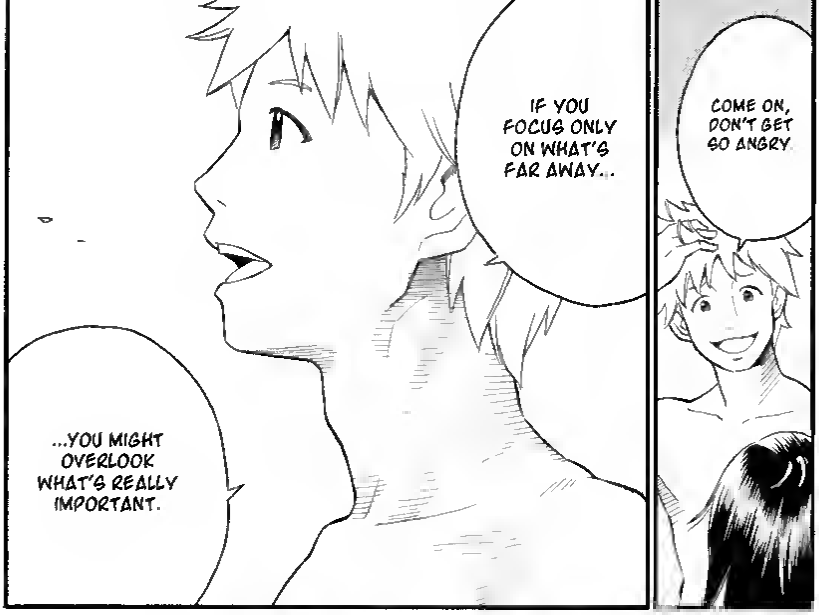

BUT YOU HAVE TO UNDER-STAND...
I'M SORRY
STRANGER

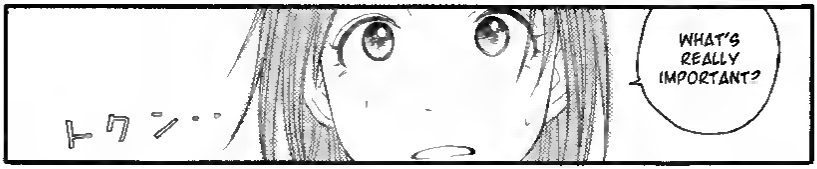
YOU'RE CRAZY!
YOU...

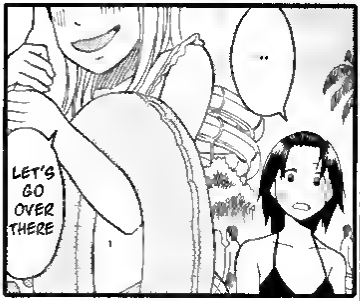

I COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT THIS!

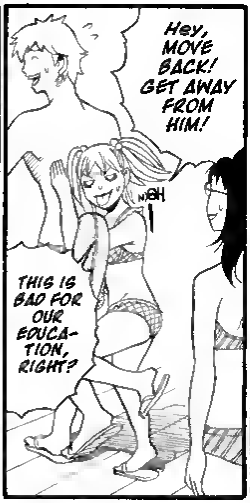
Oh?
AREN'T YOU TWO EATING?
ALL RIGHT!
LISTEN UP! TODAY I'M GONNA TAKE YOU...
...TO A WONDERFUL PLACE!

HIDR
POLY
9
8
IF WE'RE HERE JUST FOR FUN THEN I'M LEAVING...
WAIT A MINUTE THIS IS YOUR "WONDERFUL PLACE"?
Heyyyy!
THANKS FOR WAITING!
THE POOL?!


IF YOU FOCUS ONLY ON WHAT'S FAR AWAY...
...YOU MIGHT OVERLOOK WHAT'S REALLY IMPORTANT.
COME ON, DON'T GET SO ANGRY


トクン・・
WHAT'S REALLY IMPORTANT?

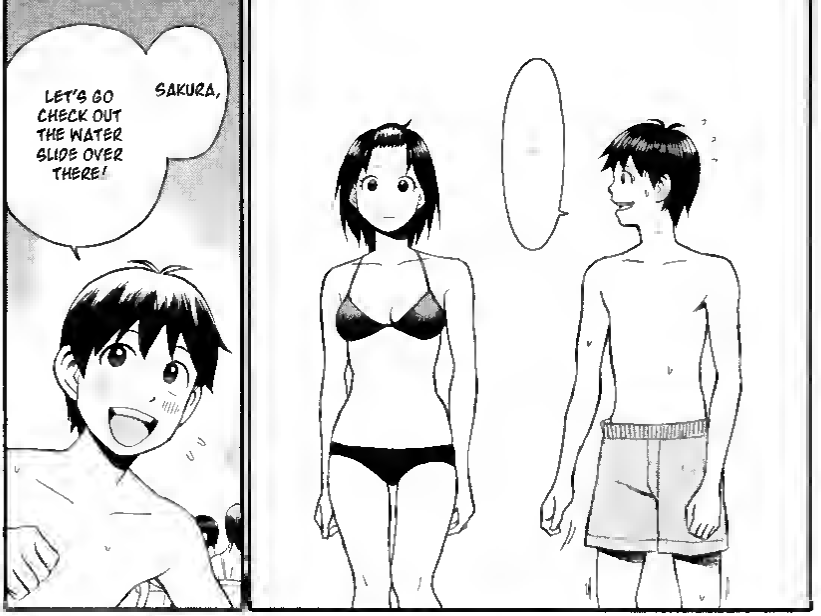

LET'S GO OVER THERE


Hey, MOVE BACK! GET AWAY FROM HIM!
THIS IS BAD FOR OUR EDUCATION, RIGHT?

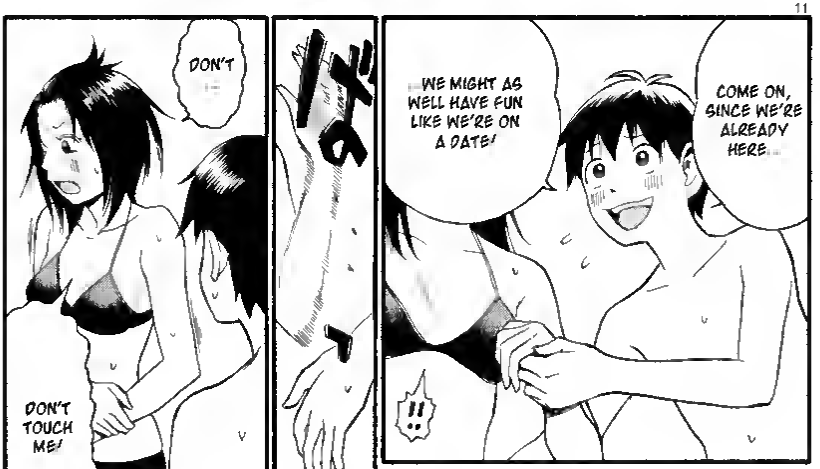
HEH HEH
LIKE CLEAVAGE, FOR EXAMPLE!
Oh, GEEZ!

10

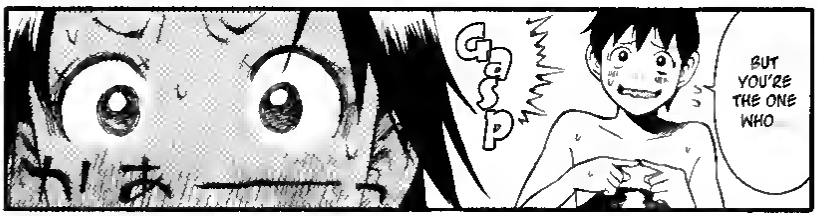
I'LL BE LYING DOWN OVER HERE, SO YOU GUYS HAVE FUN TOGETHER!
Huh?

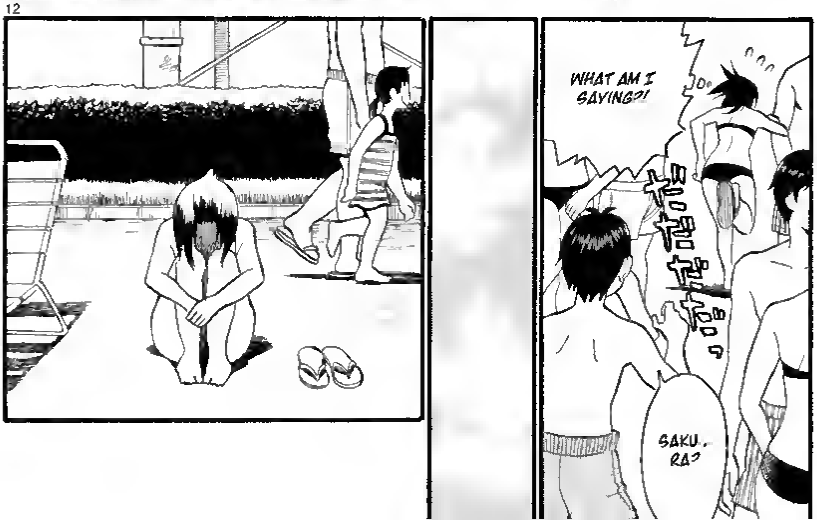

SAKURA,
LET'S GO CHECK OUT THE WATER SLIDE OVER THERE!

NO THANKS

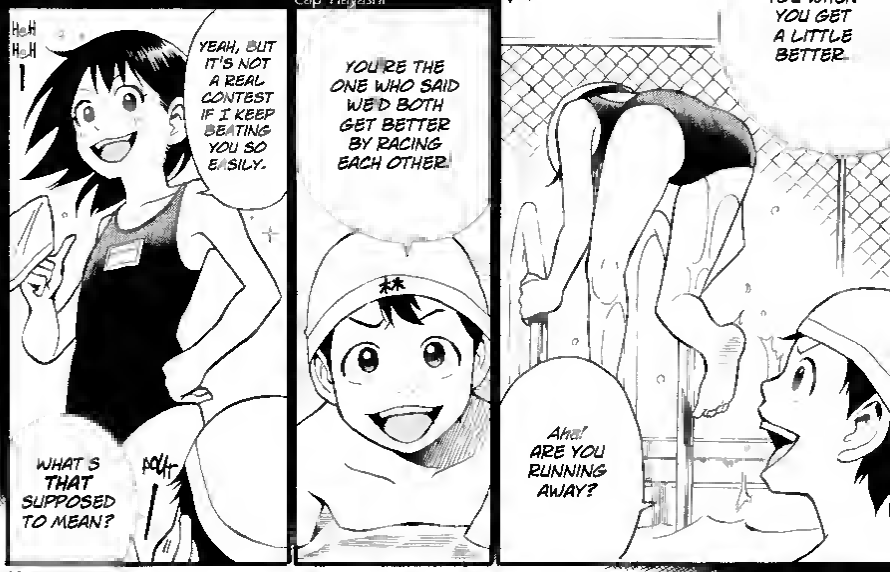

DON'T
DON'T TOUCH ME!
ぱし
...WE MIGHT AS WELL HAVE FUN LIKE WE'RE ON A DATE!
COME ON, SINCE WE'RE ALREADY HERE...
!!

Y...
YOU HATE BEING WITH ME ANYWAY, DON'T YOU?


GASP
BUT YOU'RE THE ONE WHO

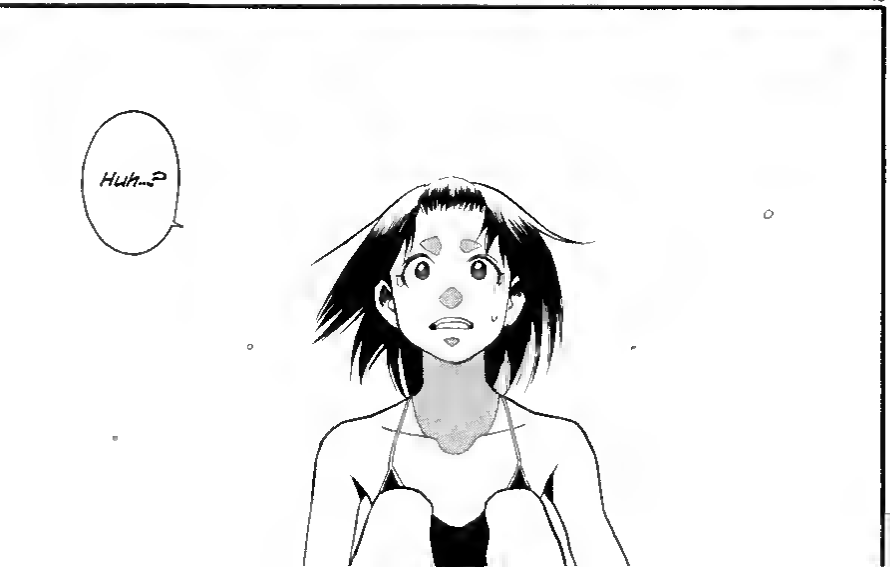

WHAT AM I SAYING?!
SAKU, RA?

WHAT SHOULD I DO?
TSUTOMU...
13
SAKURAAA!
COME ON, SAKURA, LET'S RACE ONE MORE TIME!
EHHH? AGAIN?!


I'LL RACE YOU WHEN YOU GET A LITTLE BETTER.
Aha! ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID WE'D BOTH GET BETTER BY RACING EACH OTHER.
YEAH, BUT IT'S NOT A REAL CONTEST IF I KEEP BEATING YOU SO EASILY.
HeH HeH
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
POUT

I PASSED MY BEGINNERS' CLASS EXAM, YOU KNOW!
WELL, I'M IN THE SPECIAL CLASS.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD SWIM WITH YOUR BROTHER SOMETIME INSTEAD.
WHAAAT?!

SUSU-MUUU!
SAKU-RAAA!
BUT TSUTOMU CAN'T SWIM AT ALL!
SHEESH! THAT'S WHY YOU SHOULD TEACH HIM, SUSUMU.


Huh...?

SHOULDN'T THAT BE THE OTHER WAY ROUND?
WASN'T TSUTOMU THE TOUGHER ONE...?
木木
SUSUMUUUU! SAKURAAA!
I HATE THIS!
ガサ
...!
16
...!!
HEY!
Why you...!
Hey! WHAT ARE YOU SPACING OUT FOR?

Since when?

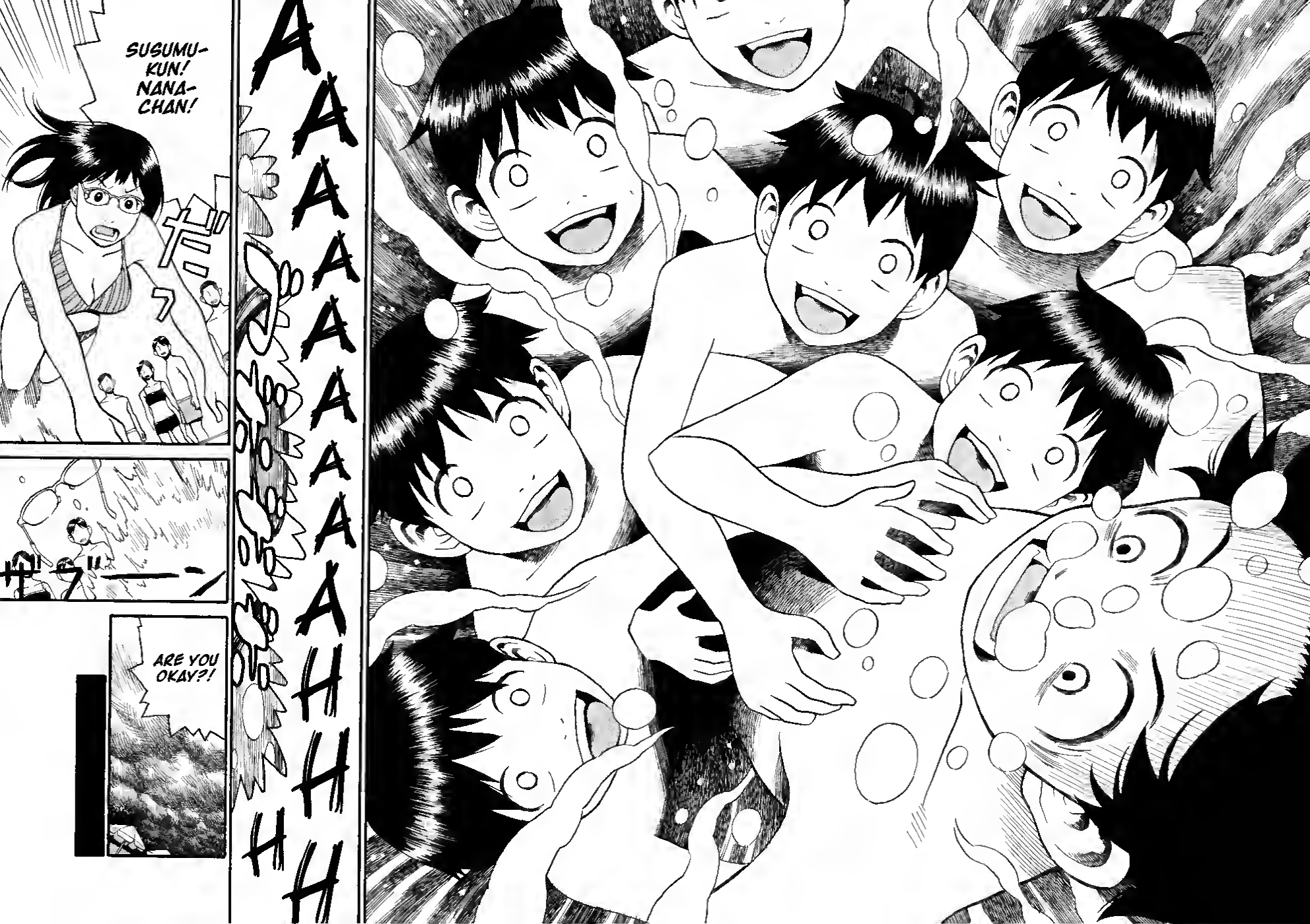
Why?

When did I start thinking it was Susumu?

Tsutomu was "the one who couldn't swim."

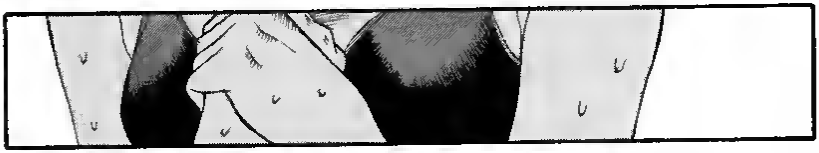
Hey!
YOU ALL RIGHT?!
GLUB
GLUB
Ahh!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, NIIJIMA?
DAMN YOU, GETTING ALL COCKY!
!!

I'M...
DROWN
--
SHSHmu!
WHA ...?!
!!
UH...


SUSUMU-KUN! NANA-CHAN!
ポーン
ヤッホーーーン
ARE YOU OKAY?!
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAHHHHHH

THERE YOU ARE.
くれーぷ
かき氷

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE ALL BY YOURSELF?



I GUESS YOU REALIZED IT.
!!

THERE'S A REASON WHY...
...I BROUGHT YOU AND SUSUMU TO THE POOL.

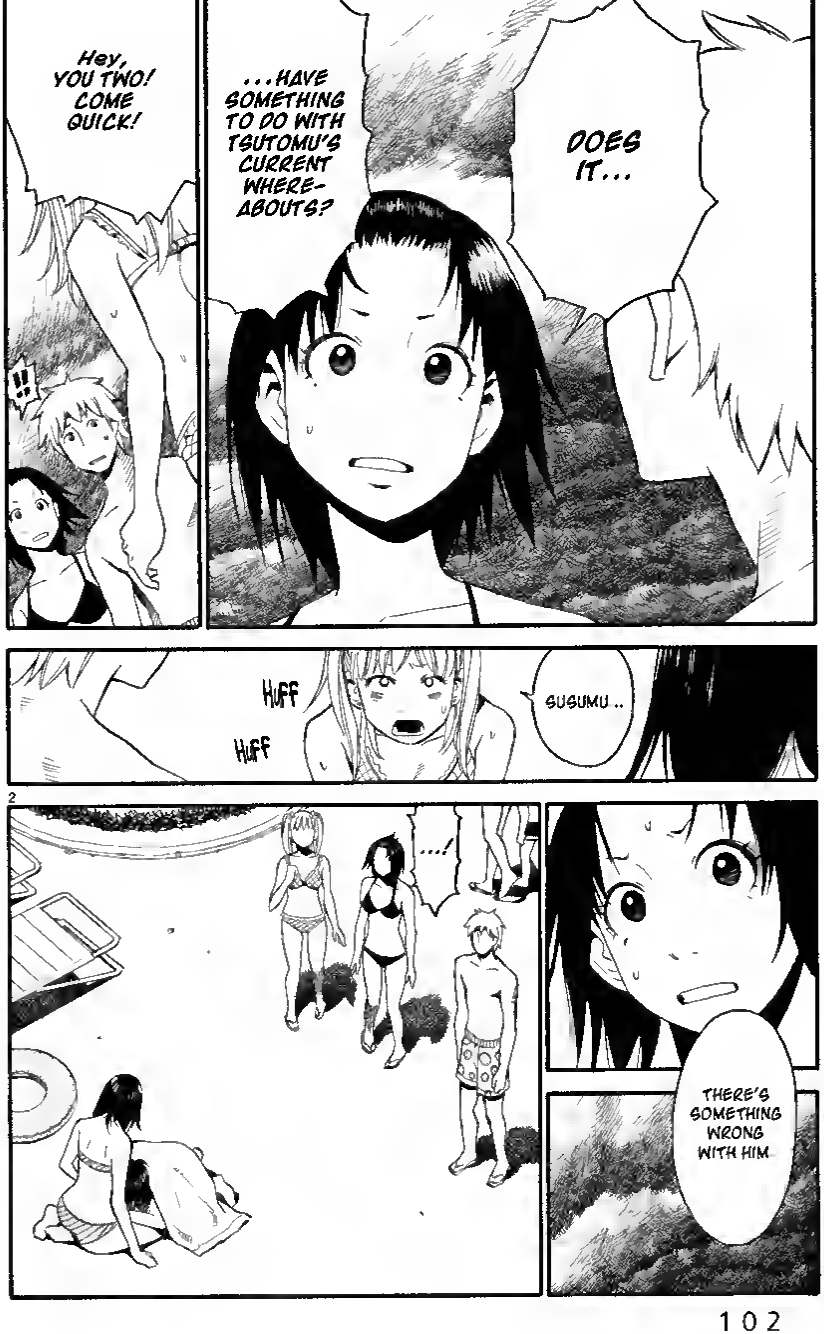
WILL YOU GO BACK?
BACK TO THE PLACE ...

ARE YOU COLD?
ARE YOU OKAY?

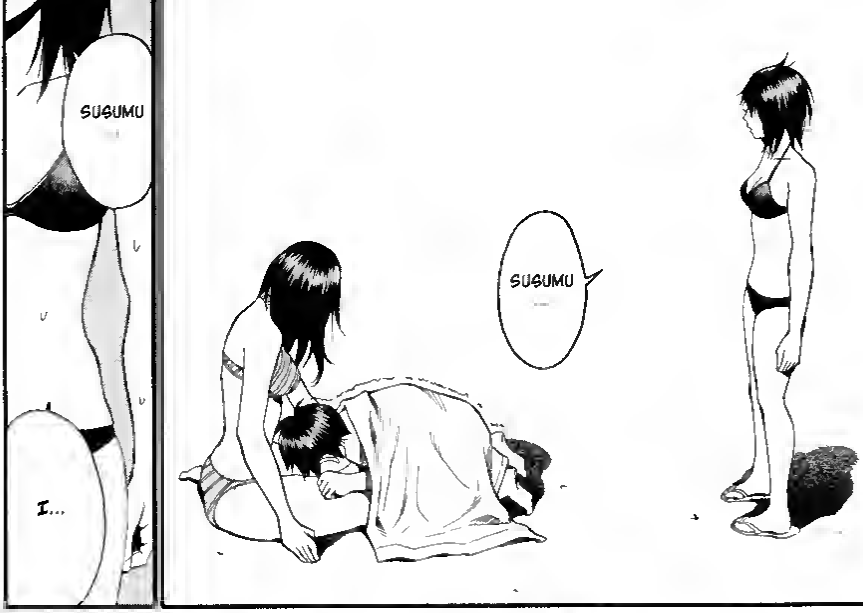
24

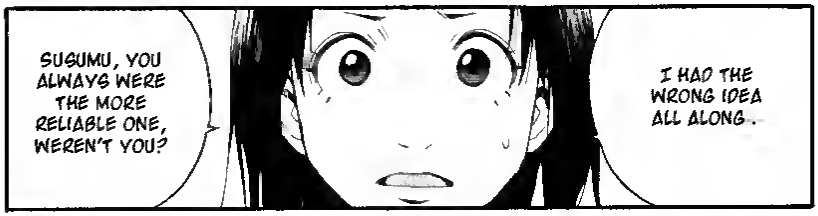
...YOU TWO HAVE BEEN AVOIDING ALL THESE YEARS...

Chapter 12: Children

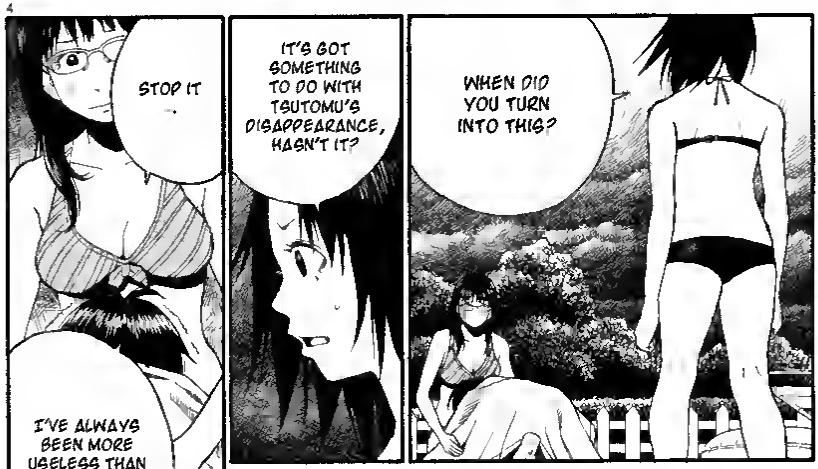

Hey, YOU TWO! COME QUICK!
!!
...HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH TSUTOMU'S CURRENT WHERE-ABOUTS?
DOES IT...
HUFF
HUFF
SUSUMU..
2
...!
THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH HIM.

SUSUMU
WHAT'S WRONG?
DID YOU...
GASP
...REMEMBER SOMETHING AS WELL?
SOMETHING ABOUT TSUTOMU?
TSU TSUTOMU...
I... UH...
I... THAT DAY
...
WH-WHAT DID YOU REMEMBER?!
TELL ME!
N...
NO!

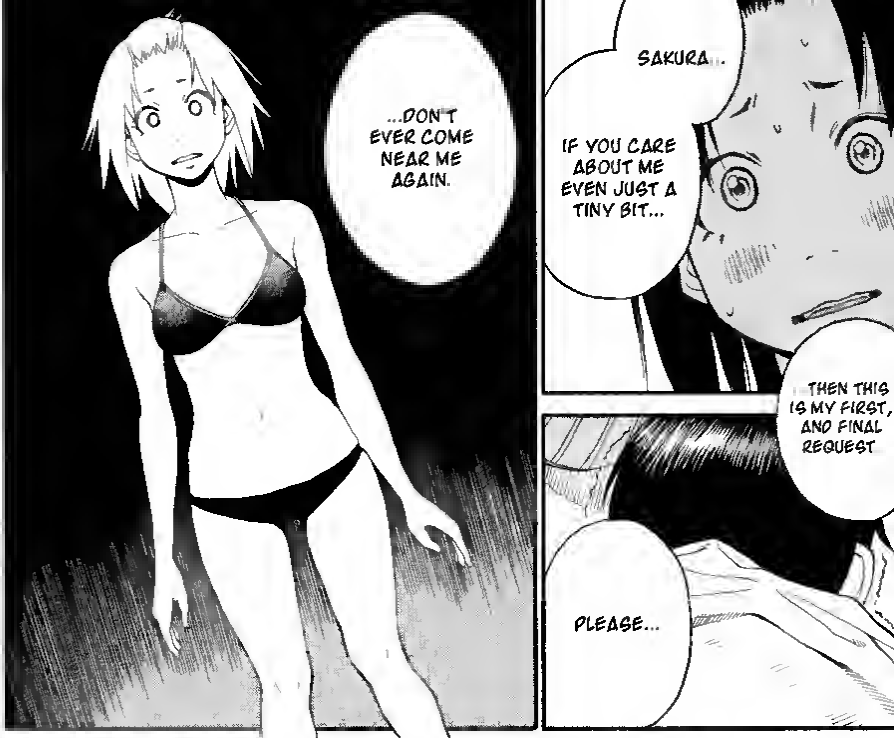

SUGUMU
I...
SUGUMU

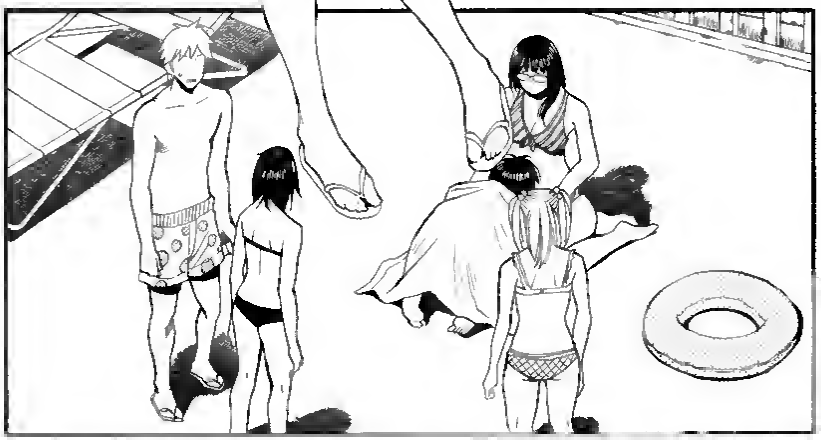

SUGUMU, YOU ALWAYS WERE THE MORE RELIABLE ONE, WEREN'T YOU?
I HAD THE WRONG IDEA ALL ALONG..

4


STOP IT
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN MORE USELESS THAN TSUTOMU..
IT'S GOT SOMETHING TO DO WITH TSUTOMU'S DISAPPEARANCE, HASN'T IT?
WHEN DID YOU TURN INTO THIS?

TALK TO ME.
I...
YOU EVEN SAVED ME YESTERDAY... SO PLEASE...
NO...
YOU'RE NOT USELESS, SUSUMU...
ドクン
ドクン
ドクン
ドクン
I WANT...
...TO HELP YOU.
DON'T SAY ANY MORE.


...DON'T EVER COME NEAR ME AGAIN.
SAKURA...
IF YOU CARE ABOUT ME EVEN JUST A TINY BIT...
THEN THIS IS MY FIRST, AND FINAL REQUEST
PLEASE...



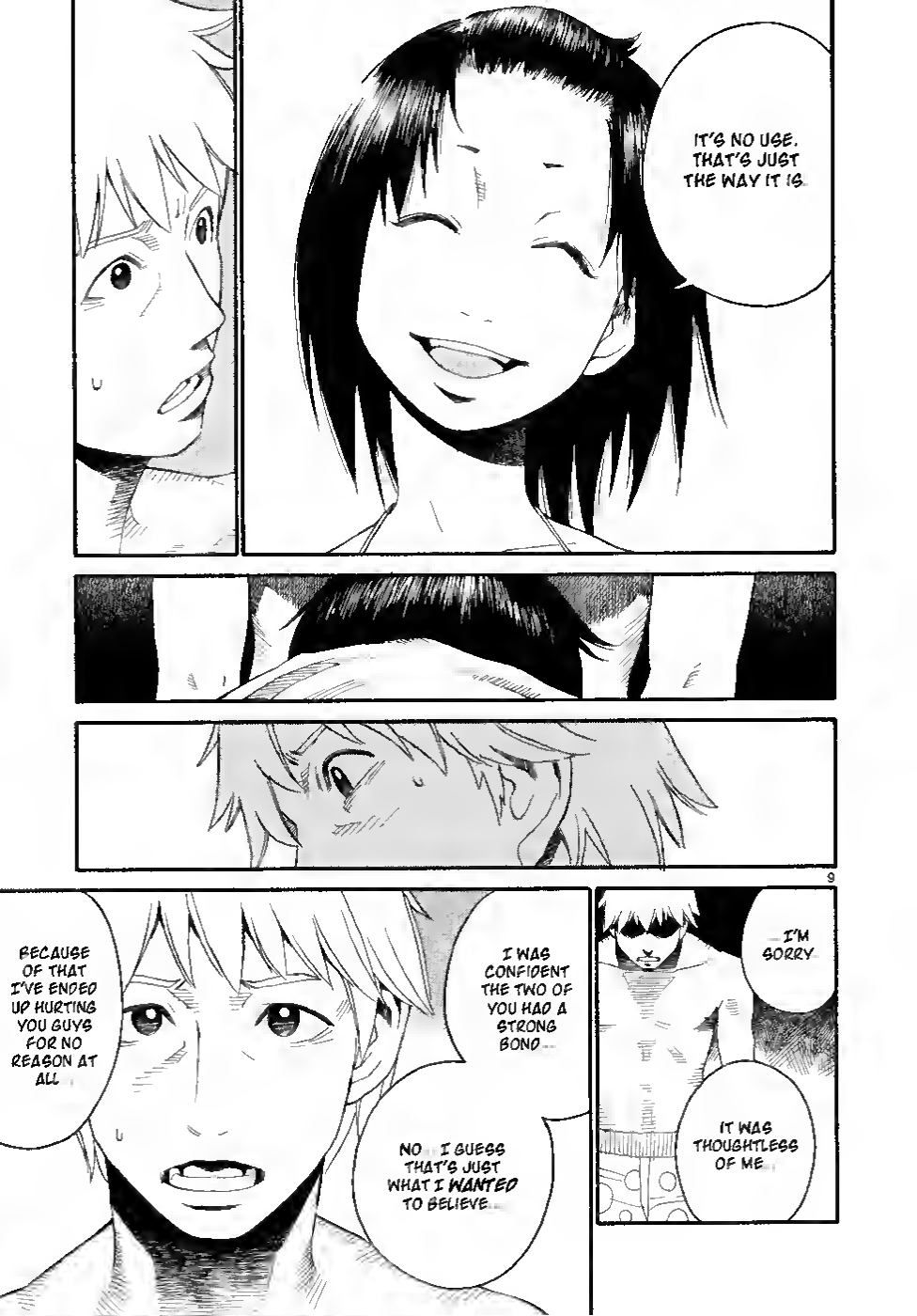
B...
BUT...

SUSUMU
BUT...
Um...
I...
Um...
Er...
...
ALL RIGHT

SAKURA CHAN

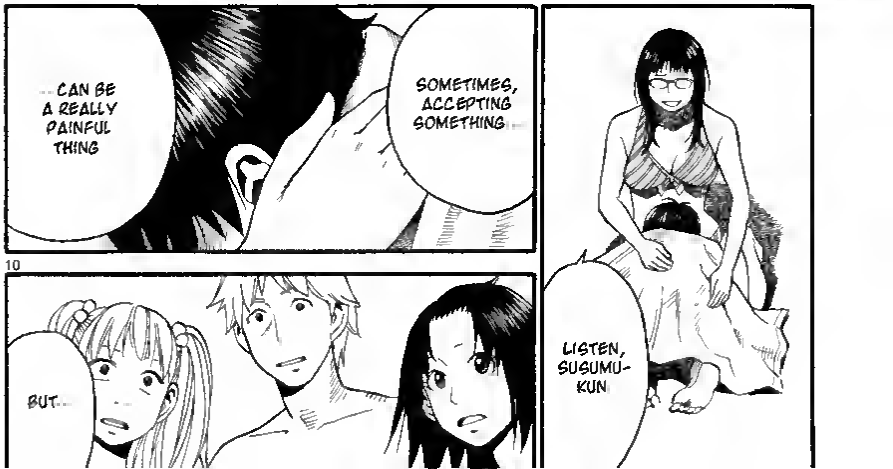
SUSUMU, IS THIS REALLY WHAT YOU WANT?
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE LIKE THIS THAT SAKURA--
DROP IT

IT'S OKAY. REALLY

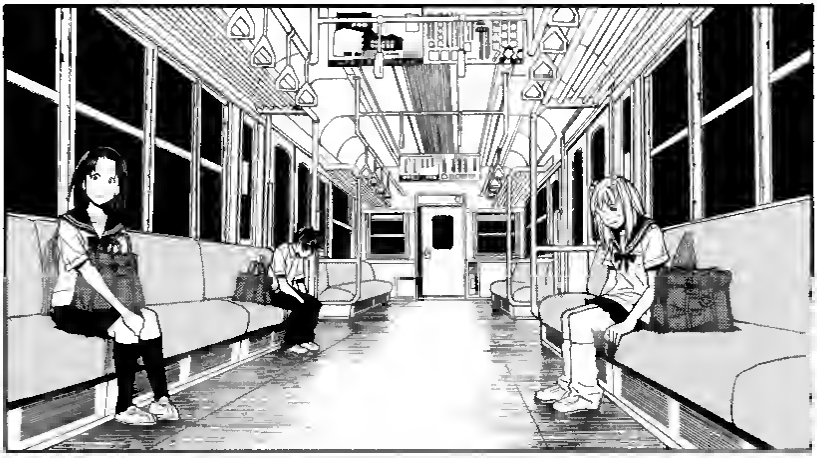

IT'S NO USE. THAT'S JUST THE WAY IT IS.
I'M SORRY.
IT WAS THOUGHTLESS OF ME.
I WAS CONFIDENT THE TWO OF YOU HAD A STRONG BOND...
NO... I GUESS THAT'S JUST WHAT I WANTED TO BELIEVE...
BECAUSE OF THAT I'VE ENDED UP HURTING YOU GUYS FOR NO REASON AT ALL.

HEY, SAKURA... WHAT'S GOING ON HERE...?
THIS IS ALL MY FAULT....
SAKURA-CHAN, SUSUMU-KUN...
I'M SORRY I'VE DONE SOMETHING TERRIBLE...
W-WHAT ABOUT THE SEARCH FOR TSUTOMU?

LET'S GO HOME
WE'VE GOT SCHOOL TOMORROW, ANYWAY
ゴオオオオオ

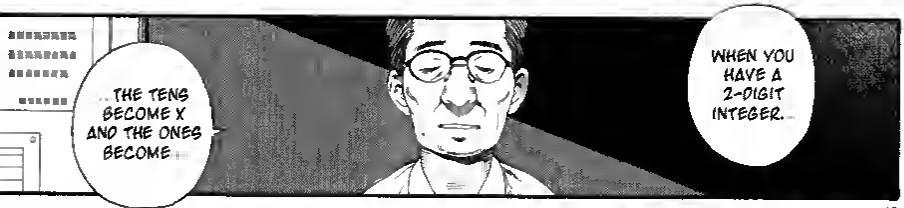

...CAN BE A REALLY PAINFUL THING
SOMETIMES, ACCEPTING SOMETHING...
LISTEN, SUSUMU-KUN
BUT...

11



"THIS IS ALL MY FAULT..."
12

AND SO, IN THAT CASE

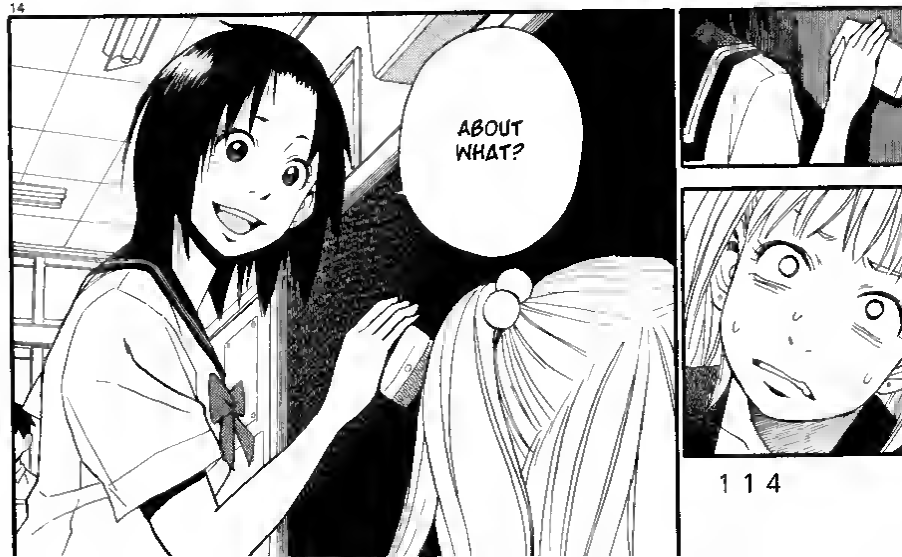

WHEN YOU HAVE A 2-DIGIT INTEGER...
...THE TENS BECOME X AND THE ONES BECOME ...

ACCORDINGLY, THE TENS POSITION IN THAT NUMBER
WHEN YOU SUBTRACT THIS SUM, IT BECOMES A MULTIPLE OF 9

TOYAMA MUST BE SO PISSED OFF RIGHT NOW
BEING BUGGED BY SOME-ONE LIKE HER
Huh?
Wha?
WHAT-EVER
SAKURA, ARE YOU GOING TO LET THINGS CONTINUE LIKE THIS?

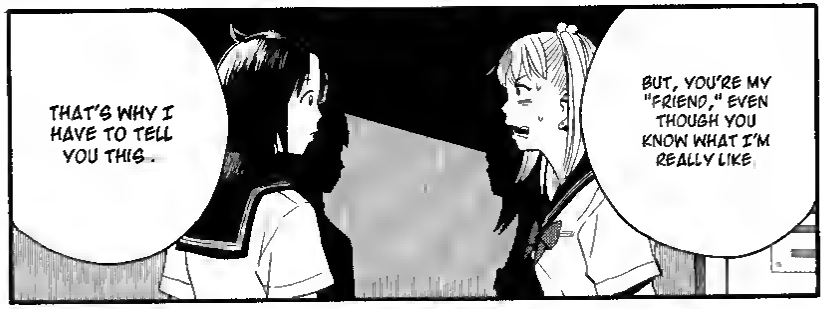
AREN'T YOU WORRIED?
I-IT'S ALREADY BEEN A WEEK, RIGHT?

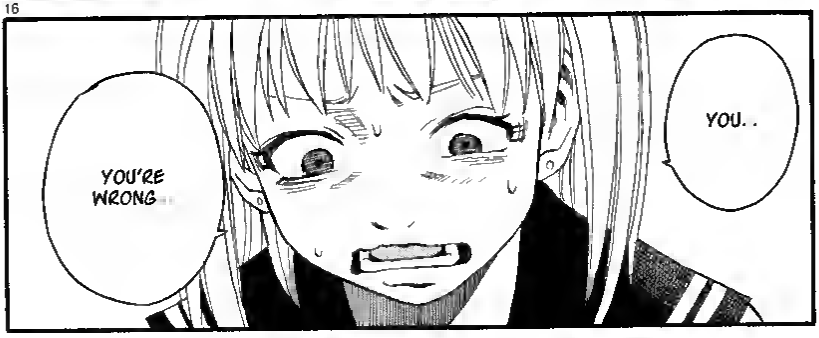
14


ABOUT WHAT?

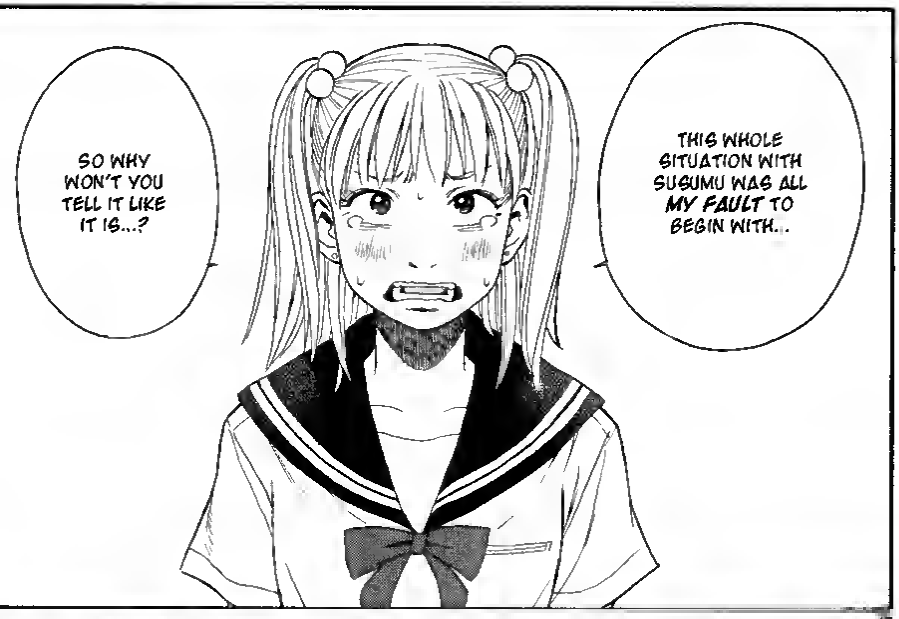
♫
♪
...!
TAP TAP
WHA...
LOOK AT ME WHEN YOU'RE TALKING
SAKURA.
IT'S WEIRD...
WHY DO YOU HAVE THAT EXPRESSION ON YOUR FACE?
15
SH...
SHE TOTALLY DOESN'T KNOW HER PLACE!
Eww, IS SHE BULLYING HER?

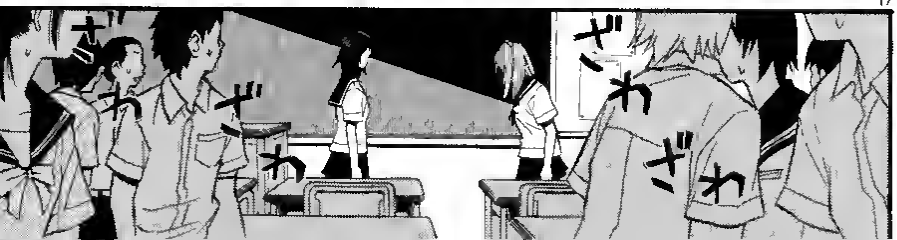
I KNOW I'VE GOT NO RIGHT TO TELL YOU ANYTHING, BUT...
LISTEN...
SHUT UP! I KNOW THAT, OKAY?!


THAT'S WHY I HAVE TO TELL YOU THIS.
BUT, YOU'RE MY "FRIEND," EVEN THOUGH YOU KNOW WHAT I'M REALLY LIKE.


YOU'RE WRONG...
YOU..

WHY AREN'T YOU ANGRY WITH ME? WHY AREN'T YOU TRYING TO TAKE REVENGE?!
IF I PISS YOU OFF, JUST SAY SO!
HOW CAN YOU STAND TO BE AROUND ME AFTER ALL THE HORRIBLE THINGS I DID TO YOU?
AND NOT JUST ABOUT THIS THING WITH SUSUMU...


SO WHY WON'T YOU TELL IT LIKE IT IS...?
THIS WHOLE SITUATION WITH SUSUMU WAS ALL MY FAULT TO BEGIN WITH..


ざわ
ざわ
ざわ

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, NANA-CHAN.
Ahaha!
...

SLAP

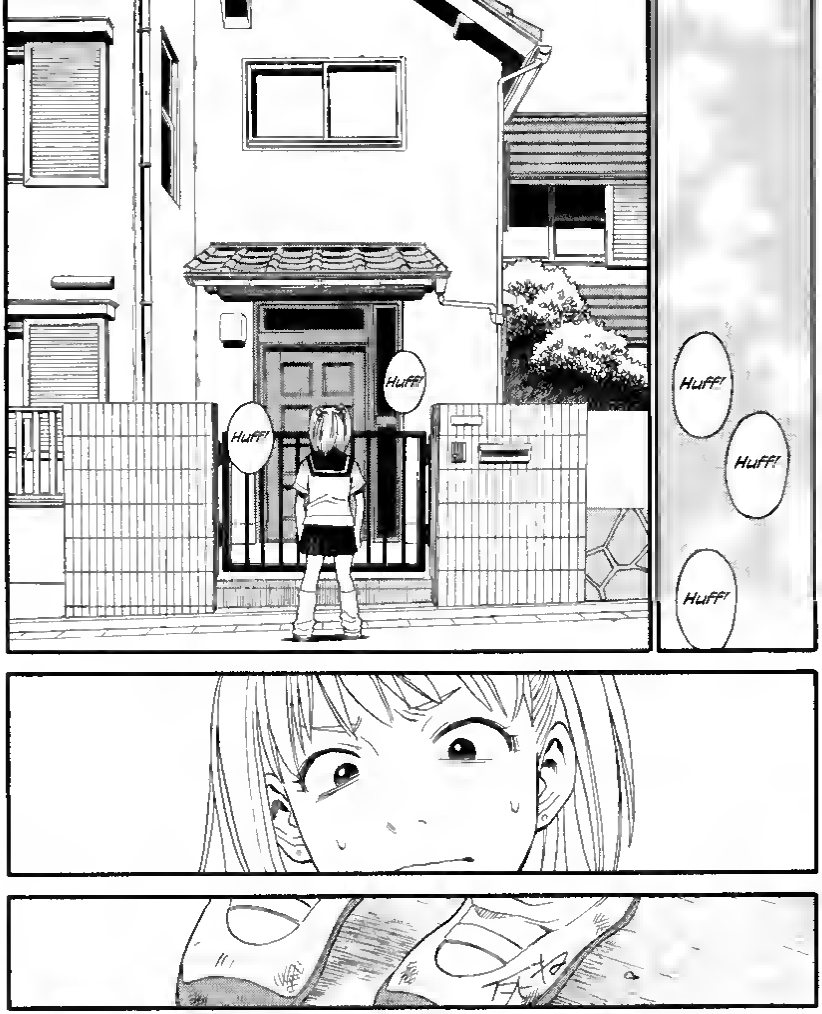
WHY WON'T YOU! UNDER-STAND?!!

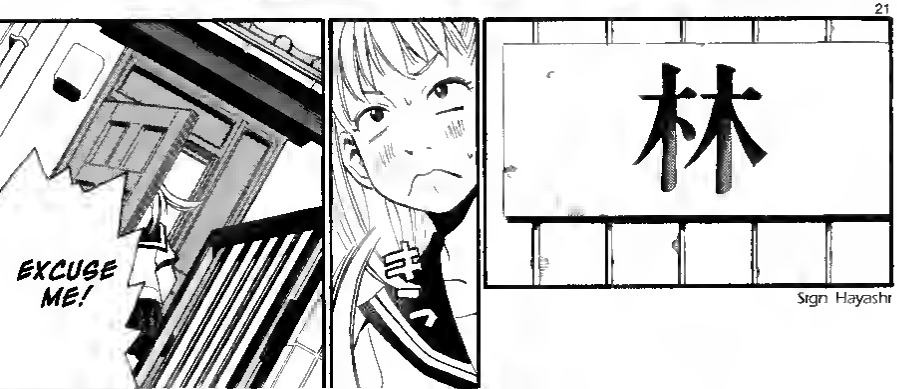
Y...
YOU'RE ...
HOW CAN YOU BE SO GODDAMN CALM ABOUT IT?!
YOU'RE THROWING SUSUMU AND YOURSELF AWAY.

I HATE YOU!
YOU'RE NOT MY FRIEND!

20

GOSH
WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?
WHAT THE HECK?



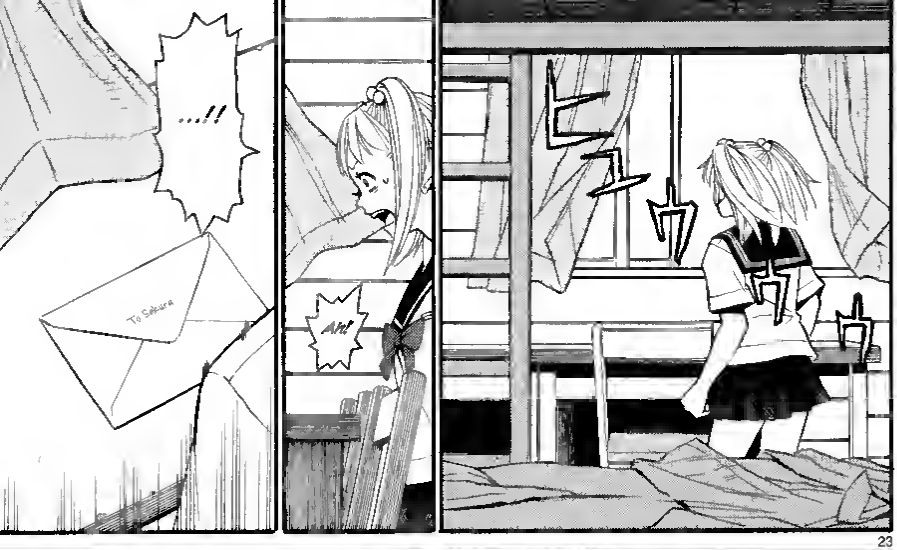


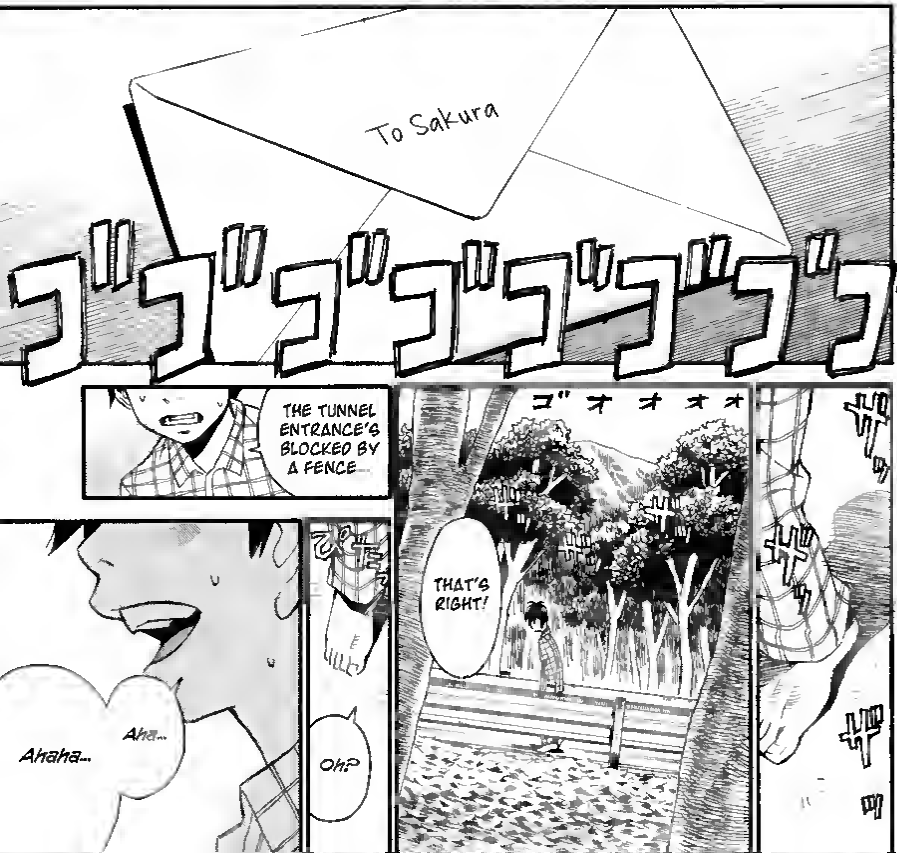
Sign Hayashi

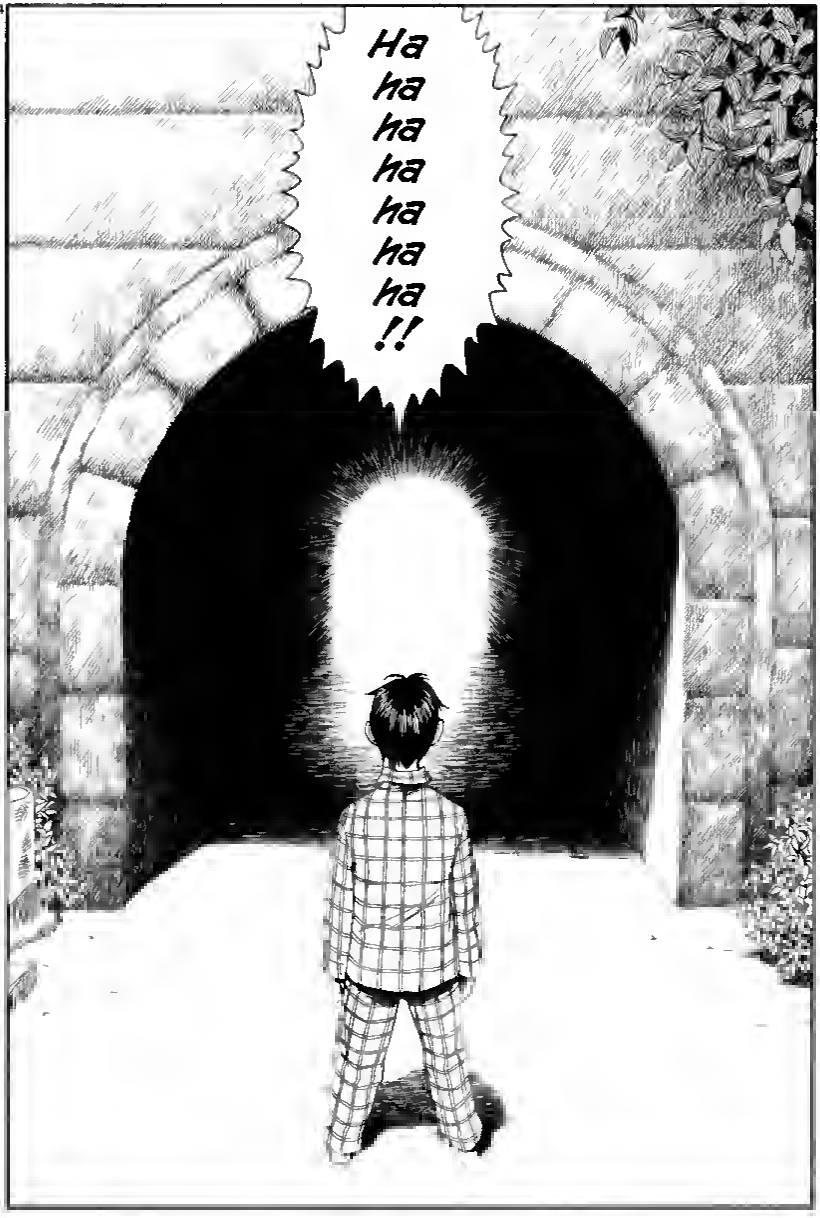
I'M SORRY!
Hey!
SUSUMU'S NOT WELL RIGHT NOW...
WAIT A MINUTE WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?
...
SUSUMU!

SUSUMU!

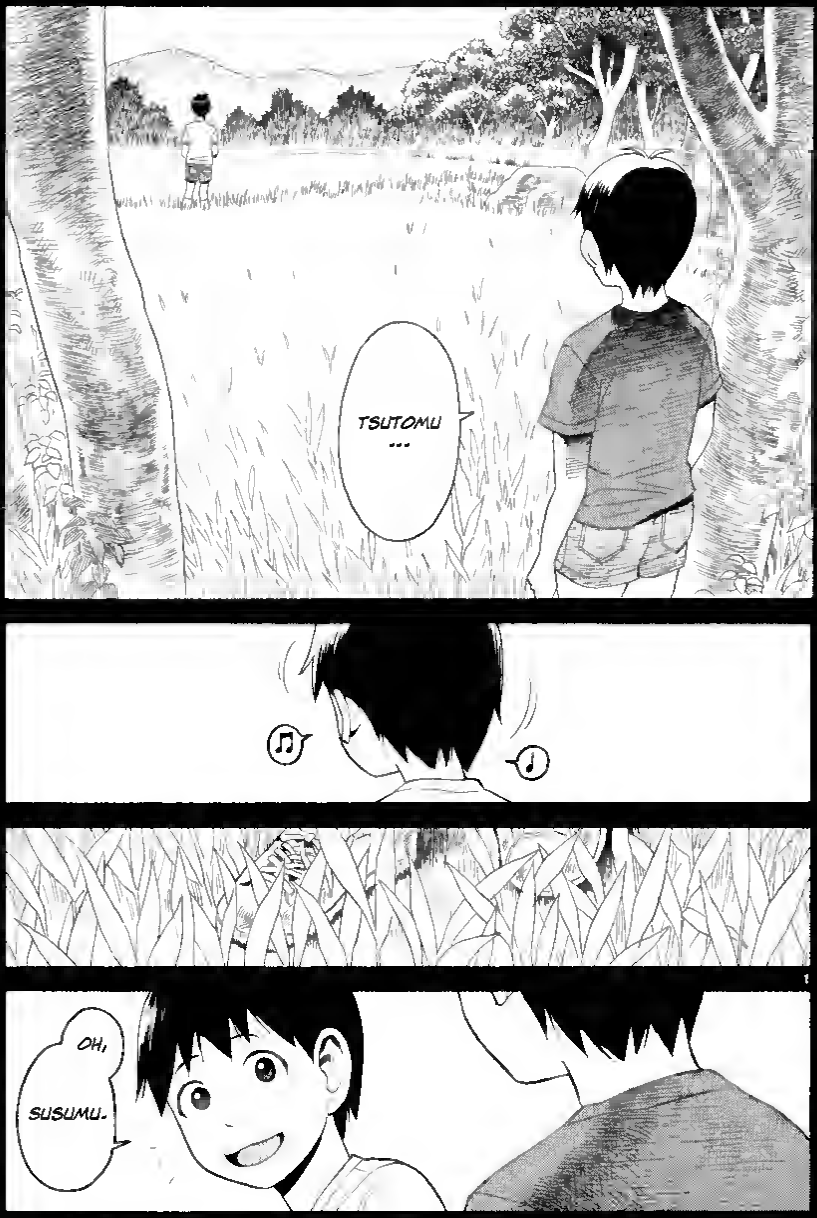
HE'S ... NOT HERE ...


...!!
To Sakura
Ah!
ヒュウウウ


To Sakura
ゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴ
THE TUNNEL ENTRANCE'S BLOCKED BY A FENCE...
ゴオオオオ
THAT'S RIGHT!
ぴた
Ahaha...
Aha...
Oh?

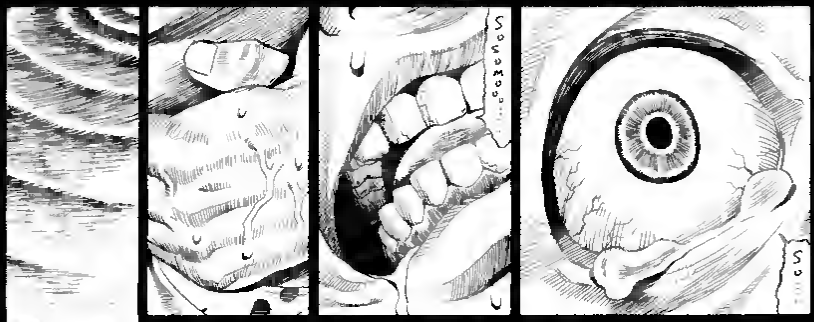

Ha
ha
ha
ha
ha
ha
!!

Chapter 13: Mud

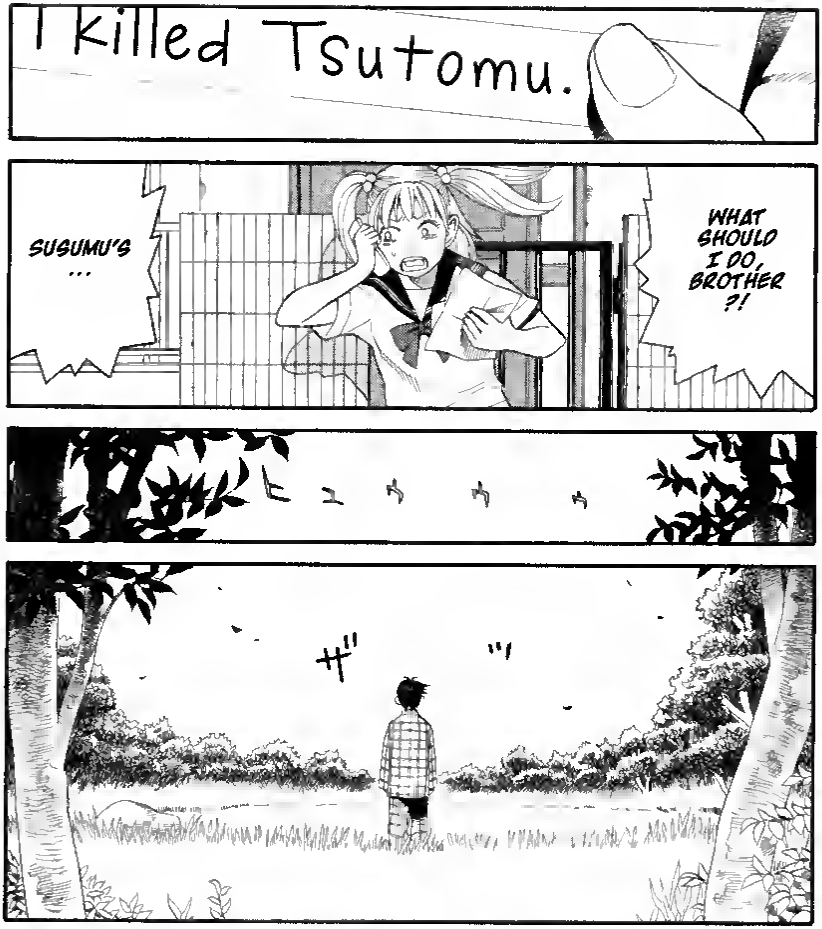


ドン
SU-
2
!!
SU
...
;glub
SUSU-
MU?!

3



Chapter 13: Mud


I killed Tsutomu.
SUSUMU'S ...
WHAT SHOULD I DO, BROTHER?!
ヒュウウウ
5

SAKURA!
!!

NANA-CHAN
WH-WHAT'S UP?

...

...?
ぱっ

Dear Sakura,
!!
Dear Sakura, I'm sorry that this is the only way I could tell you this
..?!
SU...
SUSUMU'S ...
Ever since that day I've been thinking about how we were back then.
TSUTOMU
Do you remember, Sakura? The day before Tsutomu disappeared.
Yes, that day...
...

I REALLY LIKE YOU, SAKURA...
WOULD YOU GO OUT WITH ME?
...I confessed to you.

I'D LOVE TO GO OUT WITH YOU, BUT...
...THE RELATIONSHIP THE THREE OF US HAVE RIGHT NOW IS VERY IMPORTANT TO ME.
THANKS. I'M HAPPY TO HEAR THAT.
BUT...

I'M SORRY...
I CARE ABOUT TSUTOMU, TOO. I CAN'T ABANDON HIM...
B-BUT ...
SUSUMUUU!
9
I FOUND A WEIRD BUG!
YOU COME TOO, SAKURA!
GEEZ. YOU'RE ALL MUDDY AGAIN.
He he he he!

That day I felt like I'd been stabbed with a thorn.
Hey, SUSUMU.
And that thorn was still there the next day.
10
YOU DO YOURS TOO.
I'M DOING MY HOME-WORK.
LET'S GO TO UWABAMI POND!
SUSU-MUUU!

WE KIDS AREN'T SUPPOSED TO GO THERE, REMEMBER?
I KNOW THAT...
BESIDES, YOU CAN'T SWIM ANYWAY.
DON'T SCREAM LIKE THAT!
IDIOT!
I DON'T WANNA! LET'S GO TO UWABAMI POND!
AND SAKURA TOO...
...I WANT TO GO WITH YOU, SUSUMU.
THAT'S WHY...

DID YOU HAVE A FIGHT WITH SAKURA?
!!
?
SUSU-MU...
...
SA...
SAKURA'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS...

...
DAMMIT!
MIND YOUR OWN BUSI-NESS!
SHUT UP!
YOU SHOULD MAKE UP.
WHY DID YOU TWO FIGHT?
12
And then...

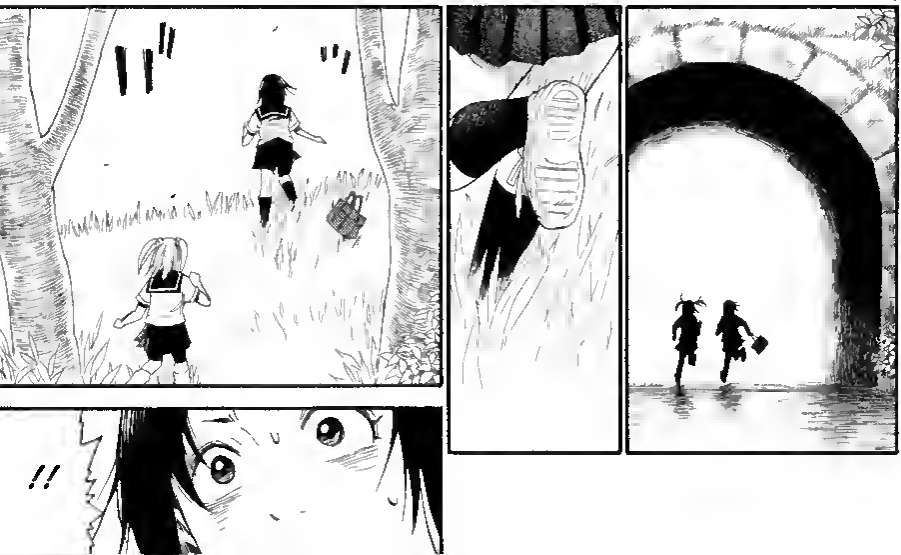
...the next thing I knew, he was gone.

I was pissed off...
SHIT ...

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
And when I got to Uwabami Pond...
HUFF
HUFF
...but I still went out to look for him.

Not even knowing how I really felt
FISH, FISH, FISH ...
...I found Tsutomu innocently playing there.
My whole body felt heavy and worn out all of a sudden...
Looking at him, I felt like an idiot for having been so worried .
"I wish Tsutomu would go away," I thought.
...but for some reason I also felt anger welling up inside me.
That's why...

That's why I...
SUSUMU ...!
WH-
WHERE ARE WE GOING ?!

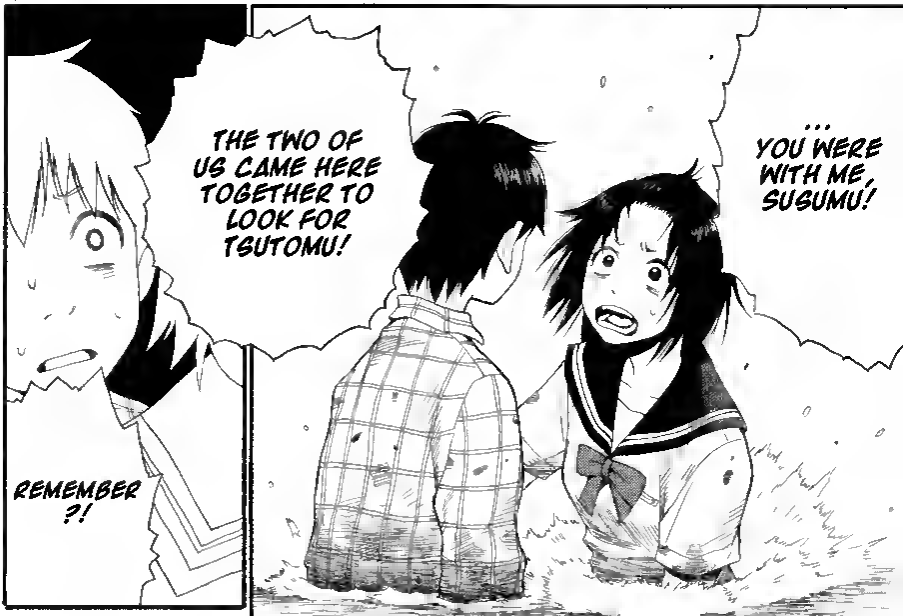

!!

...
SUSUMU!

STAY AWAY FROM ME!
SU--

I DON'T DESERVE TO LIVE
I'M GOING TO GO JOIN TSUTOMU...
WAIT ...
Ugh!
I THOUGHT HE WAS A NUISANCE
I WANTED HIM TO DISAPPEAR
THAT'S WHY I KILLED TSUTOMU.
THE TSUTOMU YOU CARED ABOUT SO MUCH ..
I'M SORRY
!!
N...
NO!

H-
Hey
...
THAT'S NOT WHAT HAPPENED, SUSUMU!
SU-
SUSUMU ...
THAT DAY...


THE TWO OF US CAME HERE TOGETHER TO LOOK FOR TSUTOMU!
... YOU WERE WITH ME, SUSUMU!
REMEMBER ?!

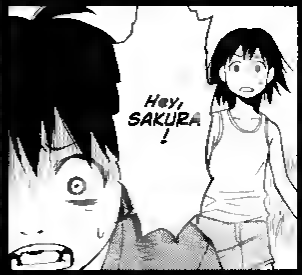
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
TO...
GETHER?
コ"
オ
オ
オ
TSU-
TOMU!

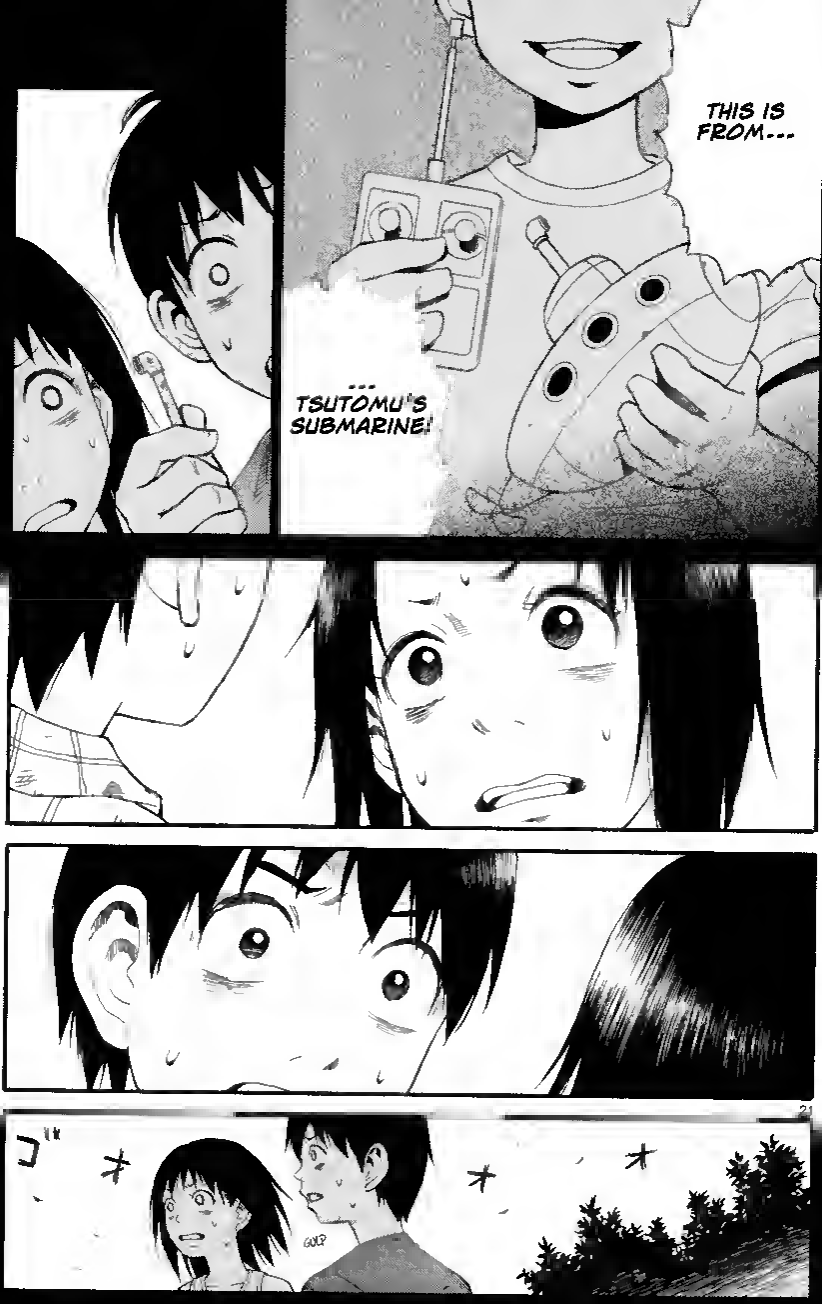
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
S

WE'VE LOOKED ALL OVER FOR HIM. HE'S PROBABLY GONE HOME...

LOOK ...!

BUT...


Hey, SAKURA !

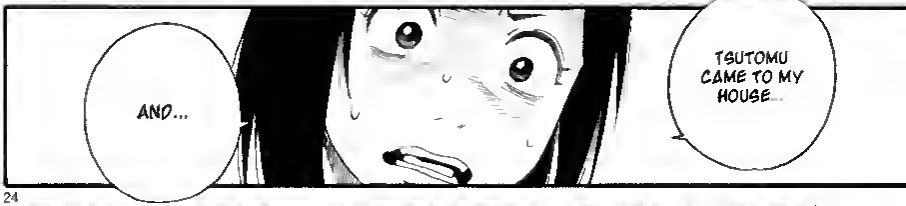

THIS IS FROM...
...TSUTOMU'S SUBMARINE!
GULP

...
22
...
WELL...
AND, UM...

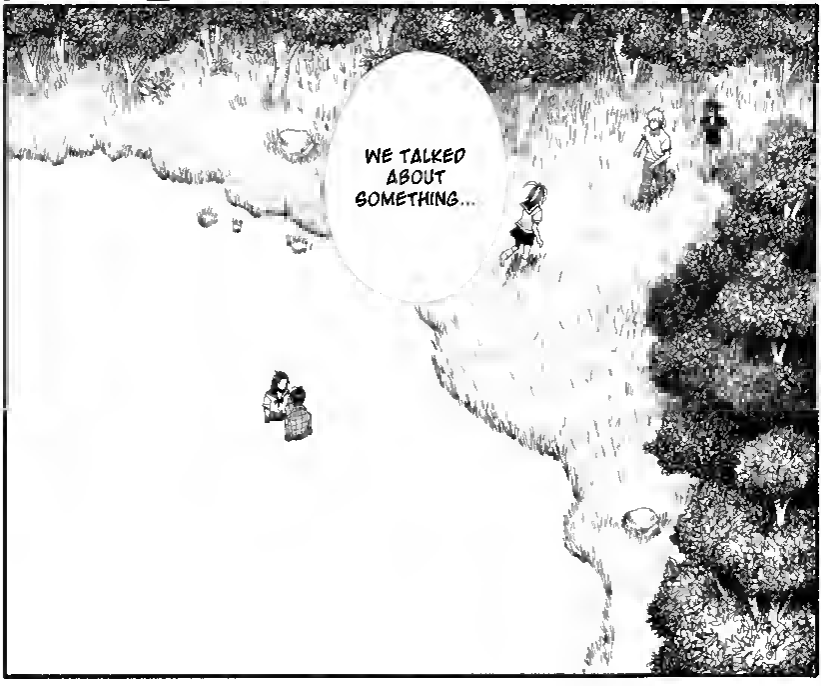
THAT DAY...
...I SAW TSUTOMU.
SA... SAKURA?

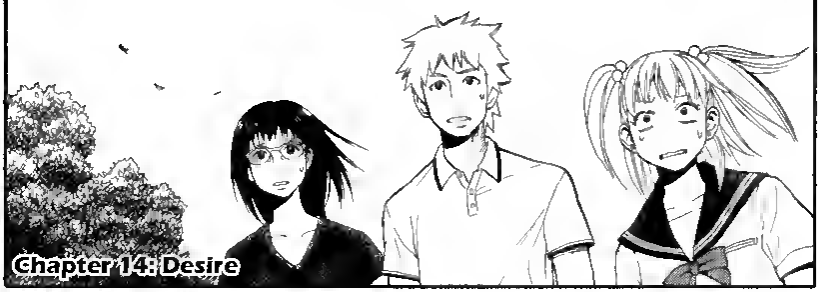
...!
RIGHT BEFORE HE WENT MISSING!

TSUTOMU...

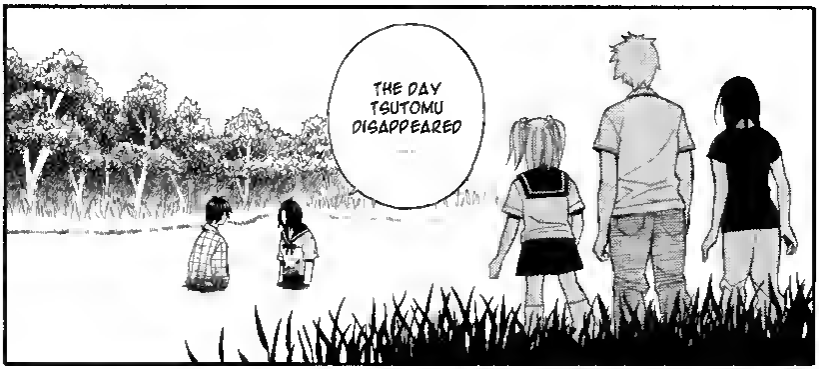

AND...
TSUTOMU CAME TO MY HOUSE...

24


WE TALKED ABOUT SOMETHING...

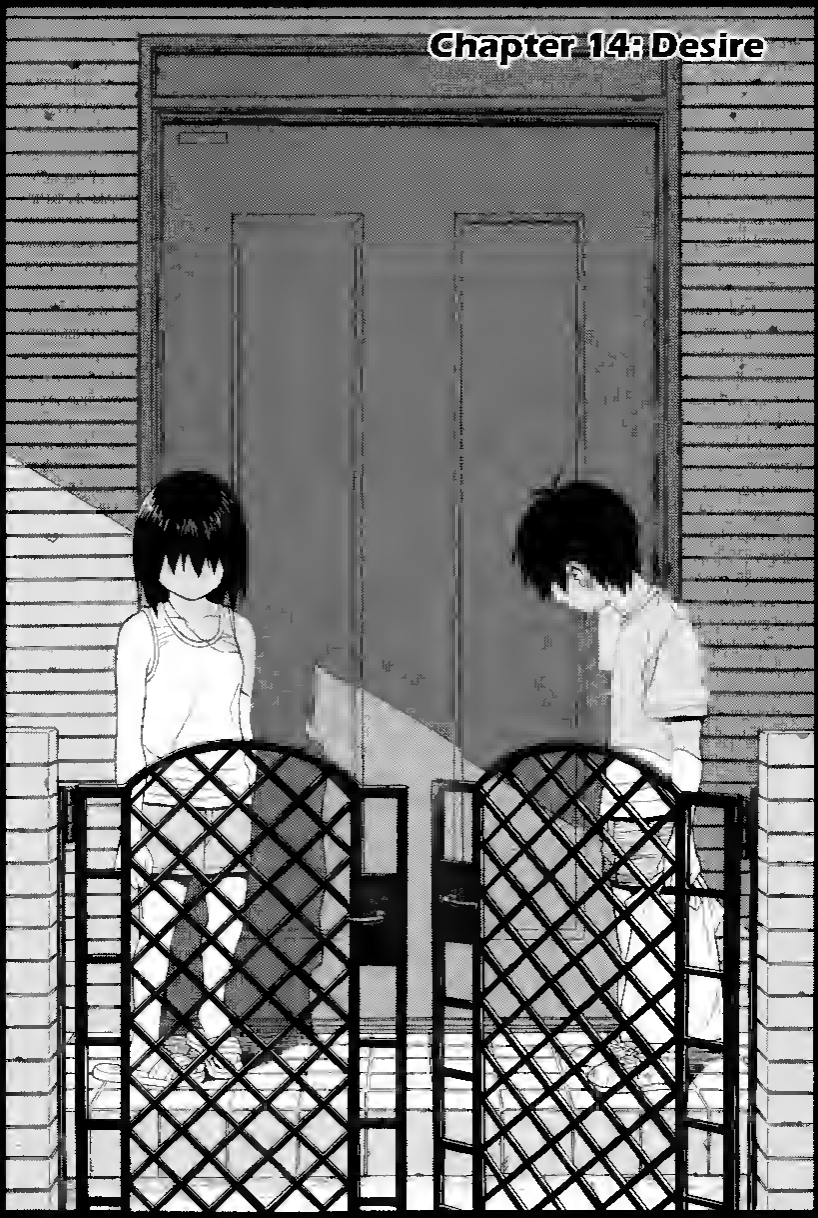

Chapter 14: Desire

THREE YEARS AGO ON THAT DAY...


THE DAY TSUTOMU DISAPPEARED...

I...
...SAW TSUTOMU BEFORE YOU CAME.
...AND THE TWO OF US WENT TO UWABAMI POND TOGETHER.
THE DAY YOU CAME TO MY PLACE LOOKING FOR HIM.

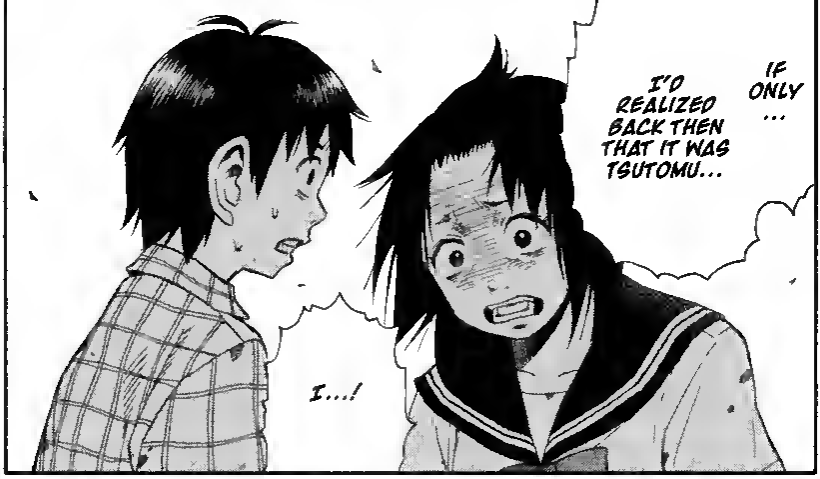
Chapter 14: Desire



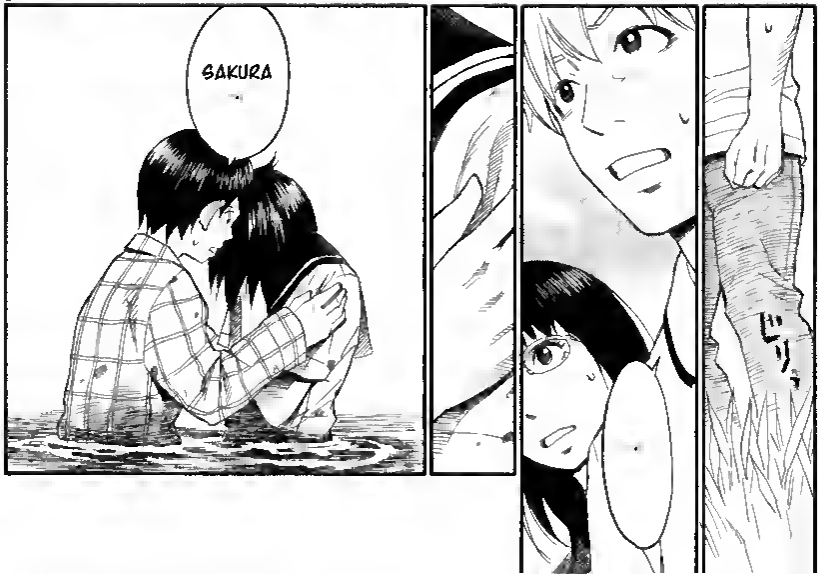
TSUTOMU TOLD ME HE'D GO TO UWABAMI POND...
...NO... I DIDN'T STOP HIM.
THAT TURNED OUT TO BE THE LAST TIME I EVER SAW HIM..
3
BACK THEN
...I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS TSUTOMU. HE WAS...
B- BE- CAUSE ...
I...
WHY DIDN'T YOU STOP HIM?
WHY DID YOU LET HIM GO TO THE POND BY HIMSELF?
Huh? BUT... WHY...?

TSUTOMU WAS PRETENDING TO BE YOU, SUSUMU...
S
SA-SAKURA... A-ABOUT YESTERDAY... I...
S
I-I THINK WE SHOULD MAKE UP...
L-LET'S GO TO UWABAMI POND...
I WAS FEELING AWKWARD BECAUSE OF WHAT HAPPENED THE DAY BEFORE...

...SO I DIDN'T NOTICE IT WAS TSUTOMU IN FRONT OF ME...
I ONLY REALIZED IT AFTER-WARDS
SAKURA ...
ぱあ
?!
TSUTOMU'S GONE MISSING!
...
THEN ...
THE ONE WHO WAS HERE....

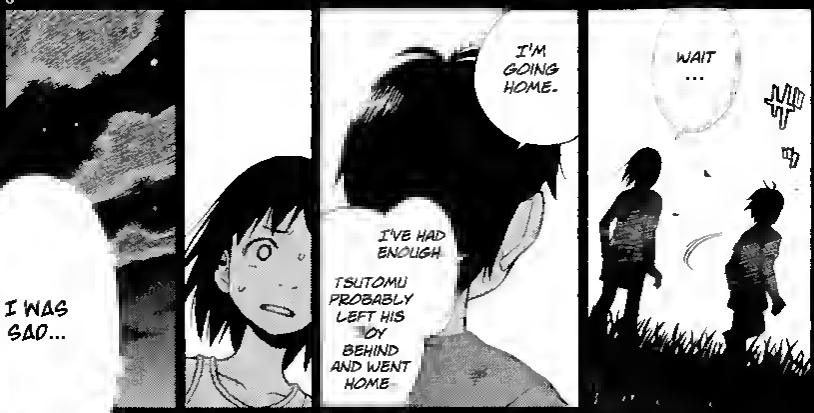

IF ONLY ...
I'D REALIZED BACK THEN THAT IT WAS TSUTOMU...
I...!

I...
...


SAKURA
ビリ

BACK THEN, I...
I PLAYED INNOCENT AND PUT ALL THE BLAME ON YOU...
THAT'S WHY I PICKED A FIGHT WITH YOU...
SA-KURA...
I'M SORRY... I...
SO WHAT DID YOU TWO TALK ABOUT...?
HE WOULDN'T HAVE GONE THAT FAR IF HE WAS JUST TRYING TO SNEAK AWAY FROM MOM AND DAD.
N-NOTHING MUCH... HE JUST SAID "LET'S GO TO UWABAMI POND."
TSUTOMU WAS WEARING MY T-SHIRT, RIGHT...?

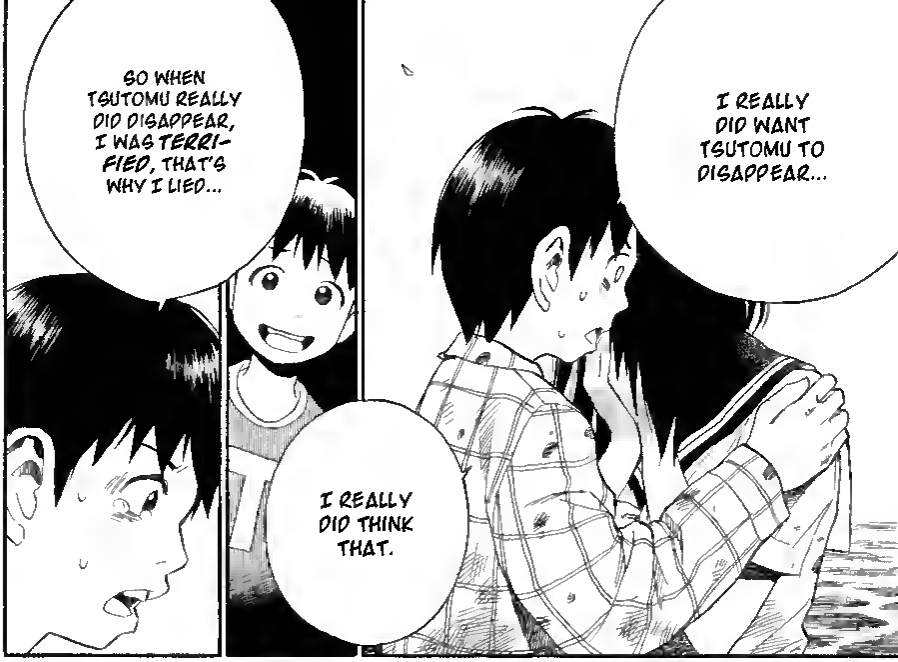
WHY DIDN'T YOU STOP HIM...?!
B-BECAUSE I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS TSUTOMU.
...
WHAT?! ARE YOU SAYING IT'S ALL MY FAULT?!
I'M NOT HIS MOTHER! WHY DO I ALWAYS HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF HIM?!
AND ...
AND ANYWAY, YOU DIDN'T STOP HIM FROM LEAVING EITHER, SUSUMU!
EVEN THOUGH YOU SAW HIM HOLDING HIS SUBMARINE!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF


WAIT ...
I'M GOING HOME.
I'VE HAD ENOUGH
TSUTOMU PROBABLY LEFT HIS TOY BEHIND AND WENT HOME
I WAS SAD...

AS LONG AS TSUTOMU WAS AROUND, YOU WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO SEE ME FOR MYSELF...
THAT'S WHY I WAS FRUSTRATED I REALLY HATED TSUTOMU
SO EVEN THOUGH I REALLY SHOULD HAVE KEPT LOOKING FOR HIM
..I GAVE UP AND WENT HOME INSTEAD
9
BUT HE DIDN'T COME HOME THAT NIGHT..
SO...

...PLAYED NEAR SAKURA-CHAN'S HOUSE THE WHOLE DAY LONG...
ON THAT DAY YOU, SUSUMU-KUN, AND TOYAMA SAKURA...
AND YOU DIDN'T NOTICE UNTIL LATER...
...THAT TSUTOMU HAD LEFT THE HOUSE AND GONE MISSING, IS THAT RIGHT?

glance
YES.
I...
I LIED...
UNDER-
STOOD.
SAKURA.
PLEASE
LISTEN..
I WAS
SCARED...


I REALLY DID WANT TSUTOMU TO DISAPPEAR...
SO WHEN TSUTOMU REALLY DID DISAPPEAR, I WAS TERRIFIED, THAT'S WHY I LIED...
I REALLY DID THINK THAT.

SO... EVEN IF I DIDN'T DO IT DIRECTLY...

12

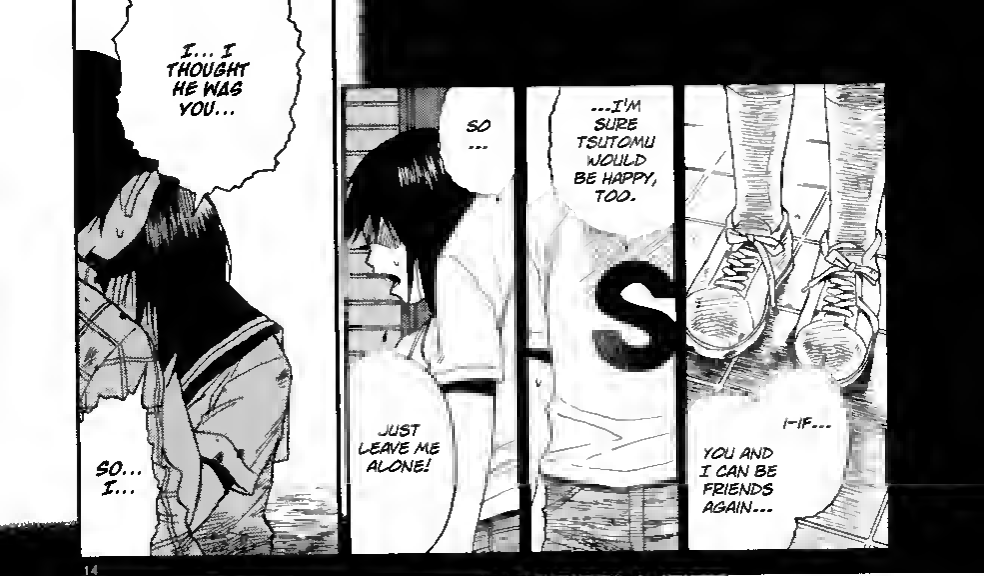
...I'M STILL THE ONE WHO LET TSUTOMU DIE.
BUT IN SPITE OF THAT I MADE YOU SUFFER SO MUCH...
I'M SORRY...

NO..

...?

YOU DON'T KNOW.
YOU'RE WRONG...

PRE-TENDING TO BE YOU, I...
WHEN TSUTOMU CAME TO SEE ME..
THAT DAY... WHEN TSUTOMU CAME..
I HAVEN'T.. TOLD YOU...
THERE'S.. SOMETHING...


I... I THOUGHT HE WAS YOU...
SO... I...
SO...
JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!
...I'M SURE TSUTOMU WOULD BE HAPPY, TOO.
I-IF...
YOU AND I CAN BE FRIENDS AGAIN...

I'D BE HAPPY TOO IF TSUTOMU WASN'T AROUND!
BUT THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT-

THEN, BEFORE I KNEW IT HE WAS GONE...
SO...
SO...!

I'M THE ONE WHO LET TSUTOMU DIE!
WHAT YOU, SUSUMU, COULD NEVER BRING YOURSELF TO SAY...
...I SAID IT!

I'VE IGNORED IT... FORGOTTEN ABOUT IT... RUN AWAY FROM IT.
EVER SINCE THEN.
I RAN AWAY FROM THE PAIN AND THE RESPONSI-BILITY.
EVENTU-ALLY
I DIDN'T FEEL ANYTHING FROM RUNNING AWAY ANYMORE
IT SOON BECAME NORMAL FOR ME TO LIE...

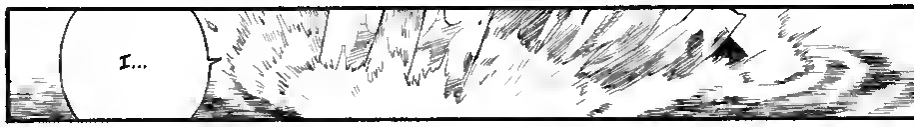
A-ALL THIS TIME... I'VE BEEN...
SAKURA...

NO, IT'S NOT!
IT'S OKAY! YOU'VE SAID ENOUGH!
IT'S...

YOU TOLD ME, DIDN'T YOU?! THAT IF I WAS PISSED OFF I SHOULD SAY SO...
I SHOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN USED TO RUNNING AWAY! I SHOULDN'T HAVE KEPT UP THE ACT!
I SHOULD HAVE SAID IT! THAT IT WAS MY FAULT!
I SHOULD HAVE TOLD SUSUMU, HIS PARENTS, AND THE POLICE EVERY-THING...
...AND JUST ACCEPTED WHAT A TERRIBLE PERSON I WAS!

WELL OF COURSE
I'M PISSED OFF!
YOU'RE THE WORST!
I COULD NEVER EVER FORGIVE
SOMEONE LIKE YOU WHO
GANGS UP WITH OTHERS TO
BEAT PEOPLE UP AND FORCE
THEM TO HAVE SEX WHILE
YOU LAUGH AND WATCH!

HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!

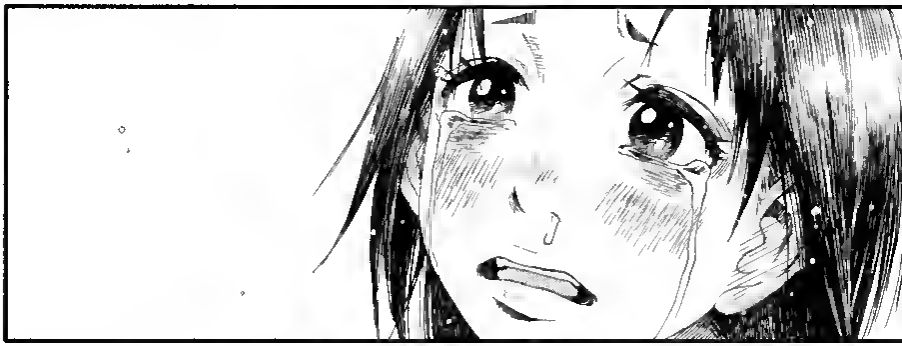

I...

20

...THAT THE "REAL ME" WAS IN LOVE WITH TSUTOMU... I TOLD THE WORST LIE!
AND IN THE END, I LIED TO MYSELF...
EVEN WORSE, I INVENTED A "REAL ME" SOMEWHERE..
CLINGING TO SHITTY REASONS LIKE "THIS IS MY OWN WILL."
I TREATED MYSELF LIKE GARBAGE..

I'M SORRY ...
I'M SO SORRY ...
PLEASE FORGIVE ME!
SAKURA ...
ジャブ

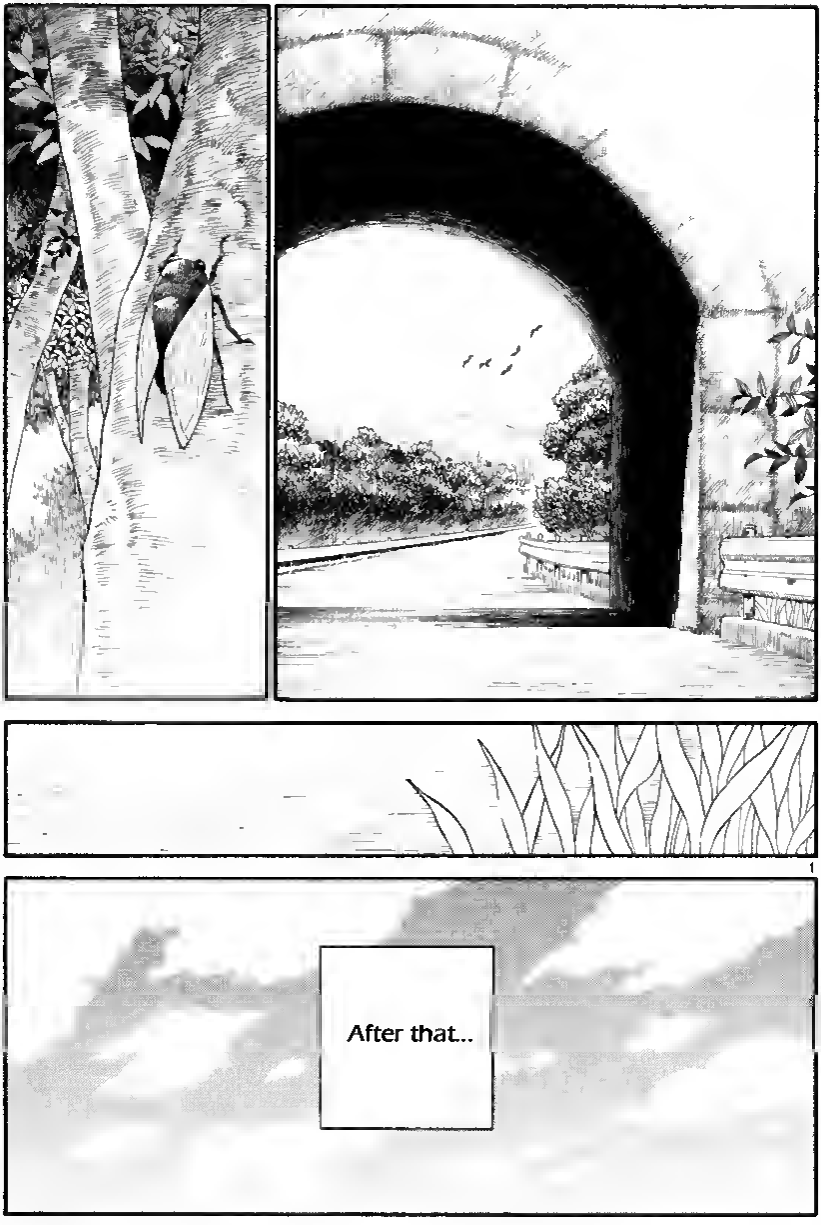
TSU...
SAKURA...

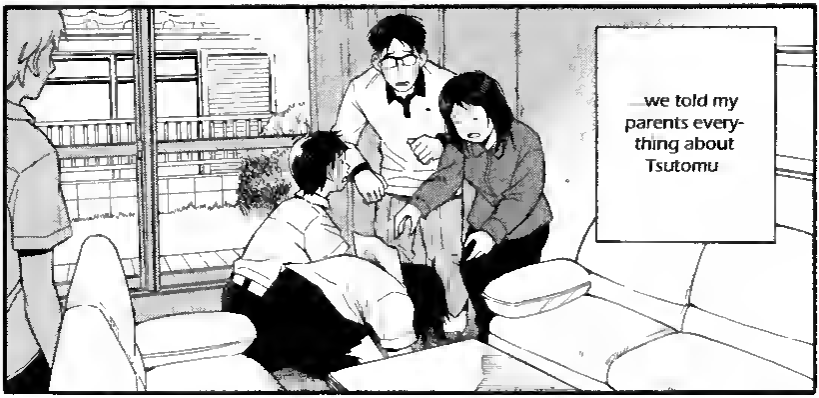


I LOVE YOU, SUSUMU... BUT...
THAT WOULDN'T BE FAIR TO YOUR BROTHER...
DESPITE EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED... I... JUST COULDN'T..
I... WHY... WHY DID I...?

ME TOO...
...
I DON'T ...
...HAVE THE RIGHT TO, BUT... BUT...
I... I WANT TO BE WITH YOU... FOREVER ...
Wah...
23
I'M ...
I'M SORRY, TSUTOMU ...
Wahh ...
ﾋｸｯ
ﾋｸｯ
ﾋｸｯ

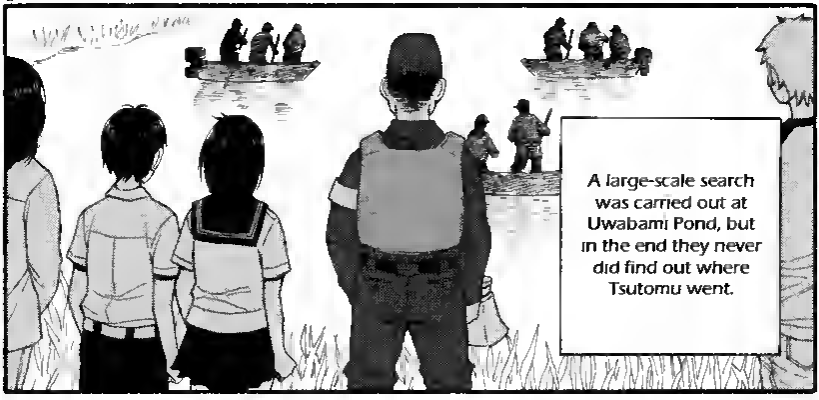
24

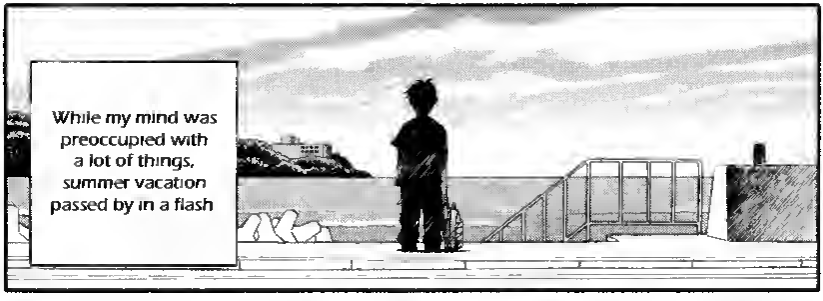

After that...


...we told my parents everything about Tsutomu

At Nijima's brother's suggestion we went to the police as well.

2

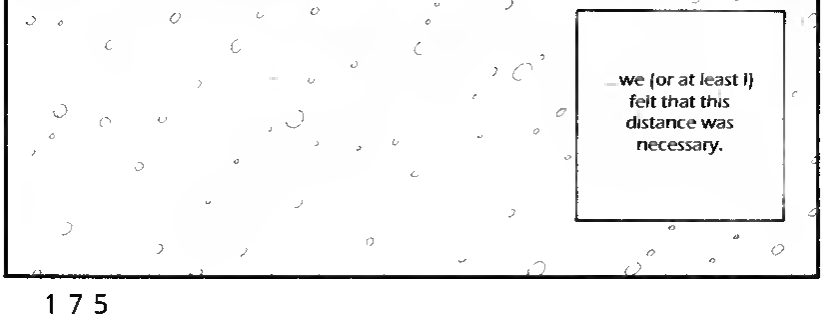

A large-scale search was carried out at Uwabami Pond, but in the end they never did find out where Tsutomu went.


While my mind was preoccupied with a lot of things, summer vacation passed by in a flash

I got to see Sakura at school every day but we didn't spend time together like we had in the past

We weren t exactly trying to avoid each other, but...

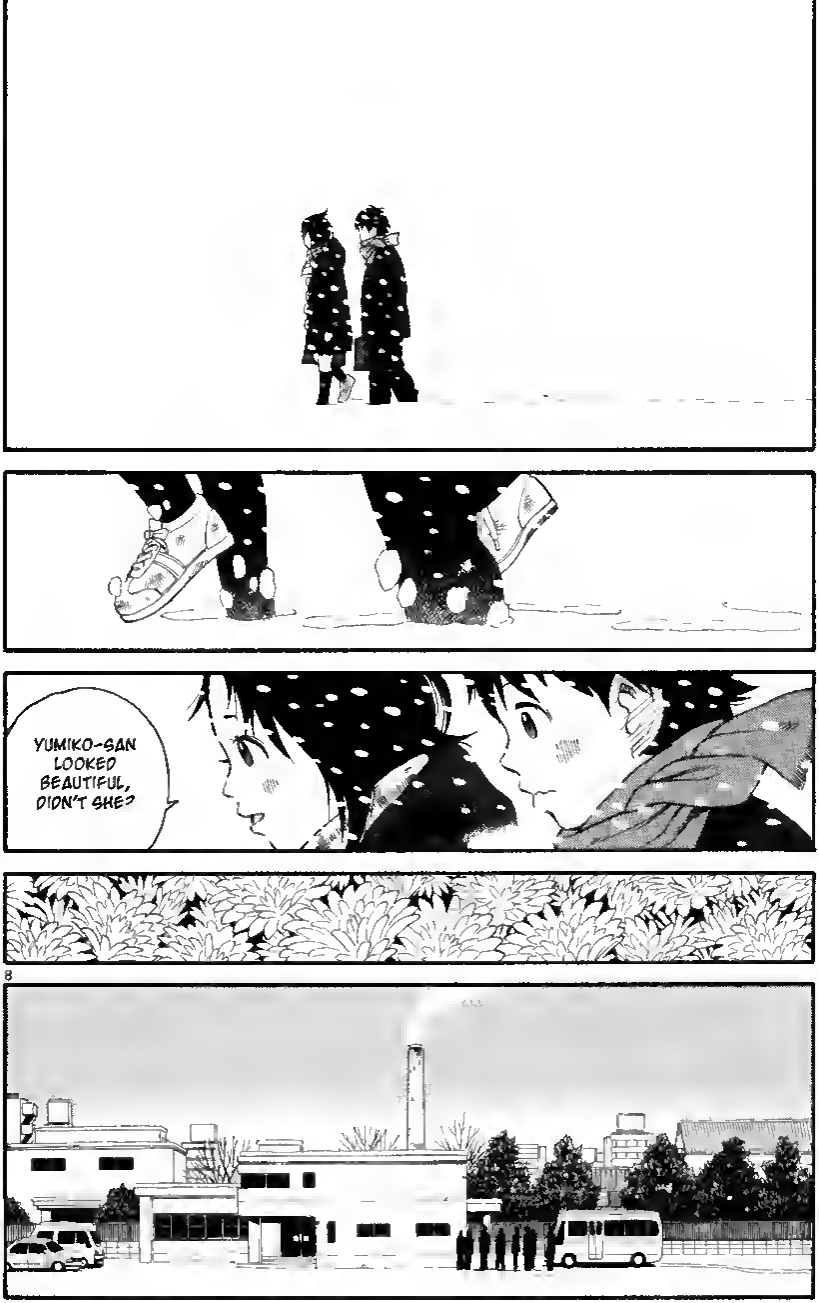
3


...we (or at least I) felt that this distance was necessary.

Final Chapter: Snowy Road

Heyyyy!
6

LONG TIME
NO SEE


YUMIKO-SAN LOOKED BEAUTIFUL, DIDN'T SHE?

YEAH
...

YES...
BUT ...
YOU WANT TO DATE SAKURA-CHAN, DON'T YOU?
I JUST DON'T THINK IT'D BE FAIR TO TSUTOMU...
WE DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO DO THAT...
BUT, SUSUMU-KUN...

...NOT TO DATE SAKURA-CHAN, OR TO DATE HER, IS JUST ANOTHER WAY TO AVOID RESPONSIBILITY, DON'T YOU THINK?
USING TSUTOMU-KUN AS AN EXCUSE...
...

SUSUMU-KUN, DO YOU KNOW...
...HOW YOUR BROTHER WOULD REALLY FEEL?

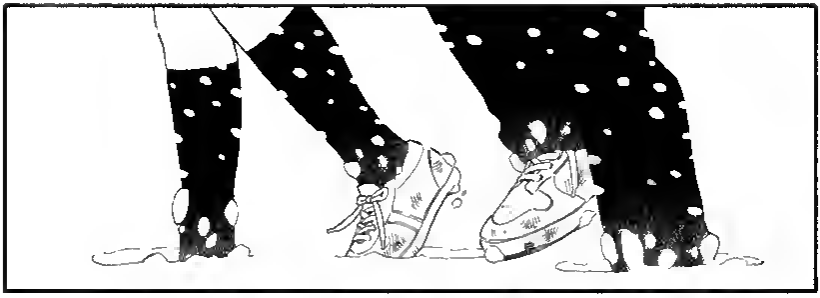
Huh?
WELL ...

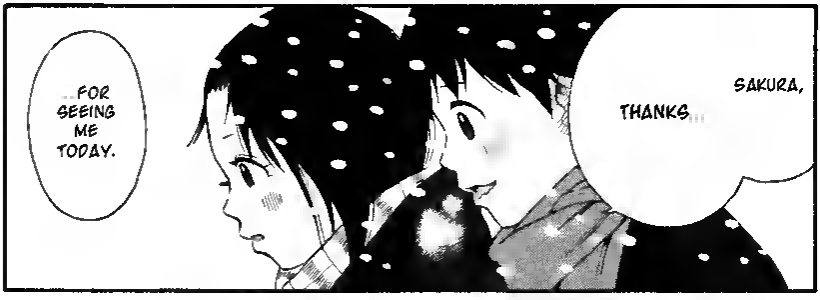
YOU HAVE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR OWN ACTIONS.
WHETHER THE TWO OF YOU GO OUT OR NOT IS SOMETHING ONLY YOU TWO SHOULD DECIDE.

...

...BUT THERE'S NO SUCH EASY WAY OUT.
YOU MIGHT BE THINKING THAT IF YOU DO THIS OR THIS EVERYONE, EVEN YOUR BROTHER, WILL FORGIVE YOU...

ANYWAY, JUST ENJOY YOURSELF. ALLOW YOURSELF TO HAVE FUN, IS WHAT I'M SAYING.
BUT... WELL, I GUESS IT'S THE SAME THING...
Hmmm, IT SOUNDS LIKE I'M TELLING YOU TO SUFFER FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, huh?
THANK YOU.
Huh?
FOR LETTING ME PLAY "TEACHER."
NO, NOT AT ALL...

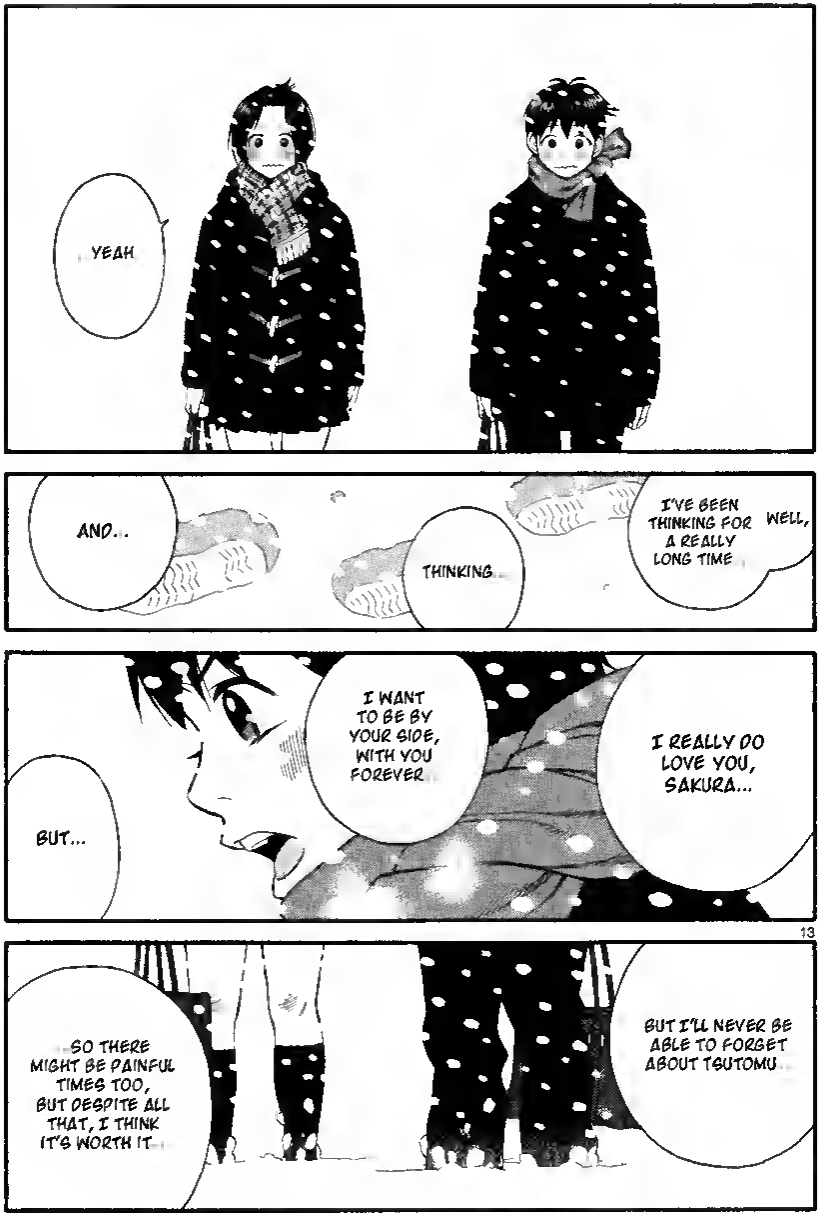



SAKURA, THANKS...
...FOR SEEING ME TODAY.

I'M A LITTLE NERVOUS BECAUSE WE HAVEN'T SPOKEN IN SO LONG...
...SO I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN EXPRESS MYSELF PROPERLY,
BUT I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THIS FOR A LONG TIME... Umm...

12

ABOUT ME AND YOU...


YEAH
AND...
THINKING
I'VE BEEN THINKING FOR A REALLY LONG TIME
WELL,
BUT...
I WANT TO BE BY YOUR SIDE, WITH YOU FOREVER
I REALLY DO LOVE YOU, SAKURA...
13
SO THERE MIGHT BE PAINFUL TIMES TOO, BUT DESPITE ALL THAT, I THINK IT'S WORTH IT
BUT I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO FORGET ABOUT TSUTOMU

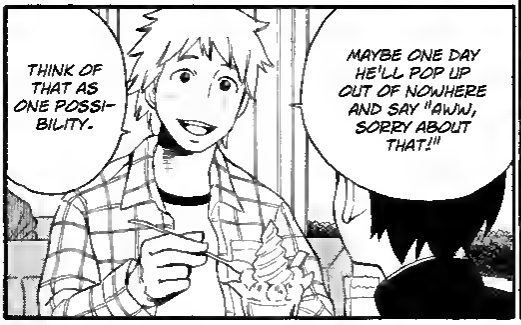
SAKURA,
IF YOU THINK THE SAME THING...
...PLEASE GO OUT WITH ME.

YEAH.
THAT'S WHAT I THINK, TOO.
"DESPITE ALL THAT"

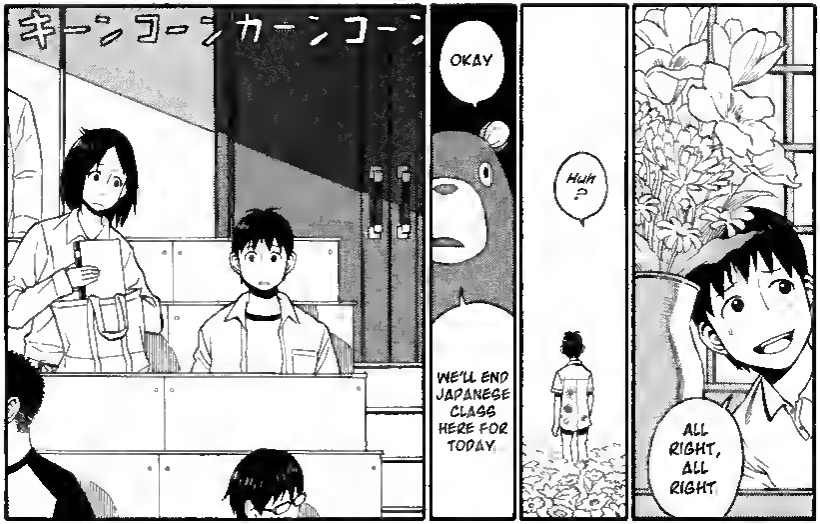
Yeah, despite
all that we are
walking together.

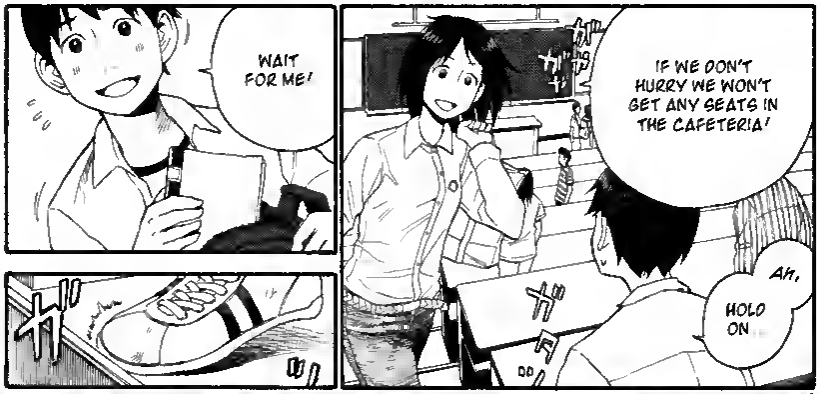
Wait, where am I?

17



I was fighting this giant squid and then...
Aww, sorry 'bout that!
Hehe
Nnn, one more hug
Huh?
Oh, NOTHING
WHAT ARE YOU GIGGLING ABOUT TO YOURSELF?
HURRY AND CLEAN UP
YOUR MOTHER WILL BE HERE SOON


キーンコーンカーンコーン
OKAY
WE'LL END JAPANESE CLASS HERE FOR TODAY.
HUH?
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT.


WAIT FOR ME!
IF WE DON'T HURRY WE WON'T GET ANY SEATS IN THE CAFETERIA!
AH, HOLD ON...

EH?

HOW DO YOU FEEL?
SIN
DOPPEL GANGER
LAUGH AND BE MERRY!
I kill you
ENJOY!
No!

ゴ゛ オ オ オ オ オ オ

Then this place must be...

I must have hit my head too often.

22

Pfft...
sniff
sniff
Ahahaha-
hahahaha!
...
Hahahaha-
hahahaha-
hahahaha!
Haha...
..
23
Hahahaha-
hahahaha-
hahahaha!
Ahahaha-
kahaha!
ゴォォォォォォォ

SWWEEET - End

PLAYBACK
COMIC BY
Kei
Aoyama
Mijima – Big brother
(15 years old)
Yo-
BA-
DUMP
BA-
DUMP
Yumiko
..

ガラ
ぴく
...
Oh, it's Nijima
Yumiko (15 years old)
Uhh... Umm...
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
smile
Ya
Y...
2
S-shut up, moron!
Isn't he, Yumiko?
Forgot something, huh? You're so careless!

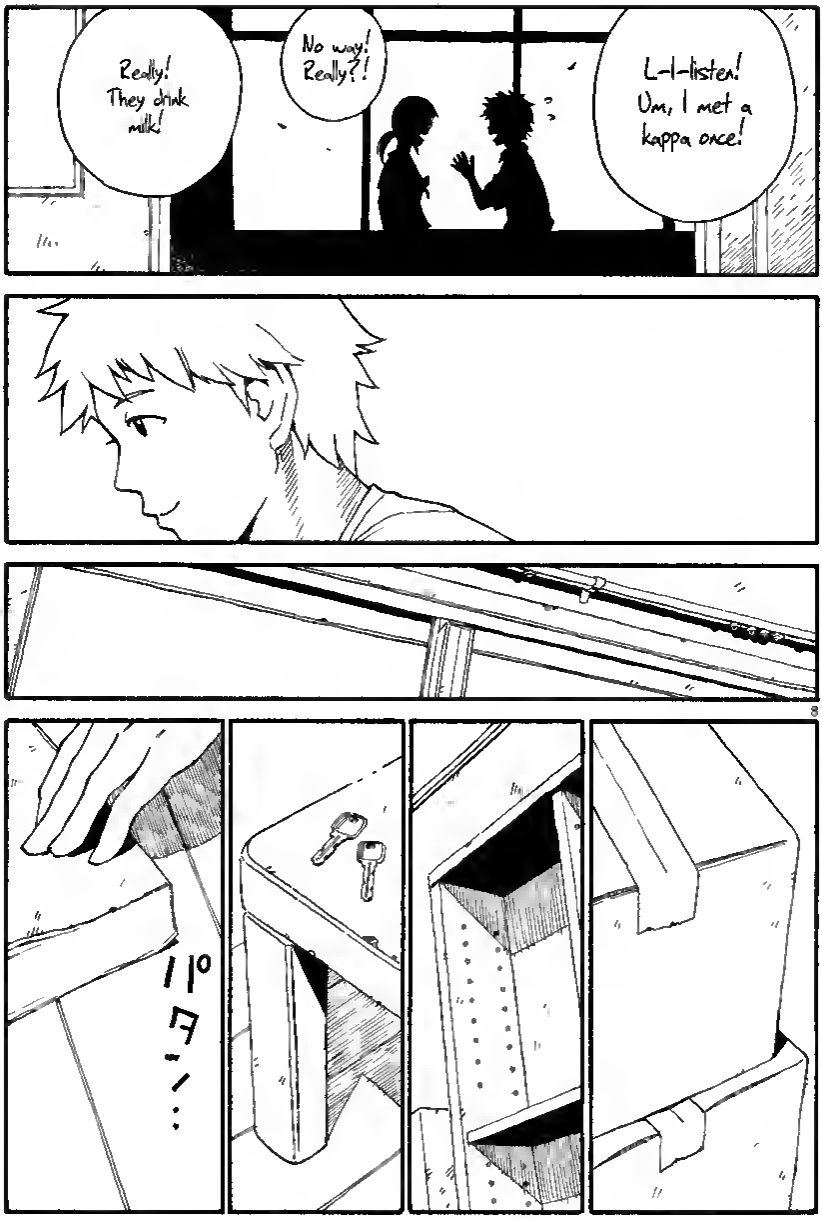
S-see ya!
Weirdo.
What's wrong with him?
Mijima Nana (8 y.o.)
...

Well, I guess a rich kid like you wouldn't understand that.
Uh...
She had to take a part-time job on the sly just to buy that book...
What?
W-w-what d'you want?
Hehe!
There's no one in the classroom right now.
Go put it back quietly, okay?
You have it, right?
whisper
N-no, I don't!
You have Yumiko's book, don't you?
I... I don't...
I don't have it, but...
I'm going back to the classroom 'cos I forgot something!
3-
Ah...

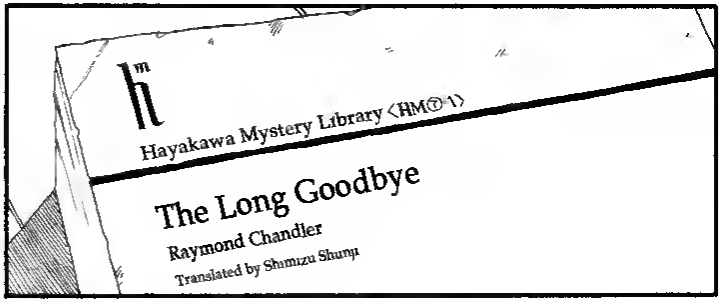
He he he he!
Did you forget something?
That bitch!
Um...
Huh?
Er, no...
Excuse me...
Here!
Oh... But that's my...
Why do you have it?

I thought I'd lost it somewhere.
I'm sorry! I stole it from your desk!
I'm really sorry!
Tee hee
Hahaha Is that so?
Huh?
...
Huh?
But...
...
Ahem...
?
How was it?
So...
But I.. Uhh..
"But it kind of went with his style of entry, the way he was dressed, the gun and all."
"Shanwu, it was the first time he had called me that."
...

T-then I'll read it over and over again, too!
Then I'll read them too!
Haha, but there are other good books out there.
...
NOo
I see you liked it!
Hahaha
I've read it several times at home already.
In that case I'll give it to you.
I want to learn more...
Umm...
I want to learn more about you, Nijima.
Ah!
No... Er... I mean, about books...
Haha.


Really! They drink milk!
No way! Really?!
L-l-listen! Um, I met a kappa once!
ニヨーン…

9



END

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